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24/7



FASTER INTERNET CONNECTIONS PLAN IN FUNDING BID

Strategy switches on to rural broadband boost

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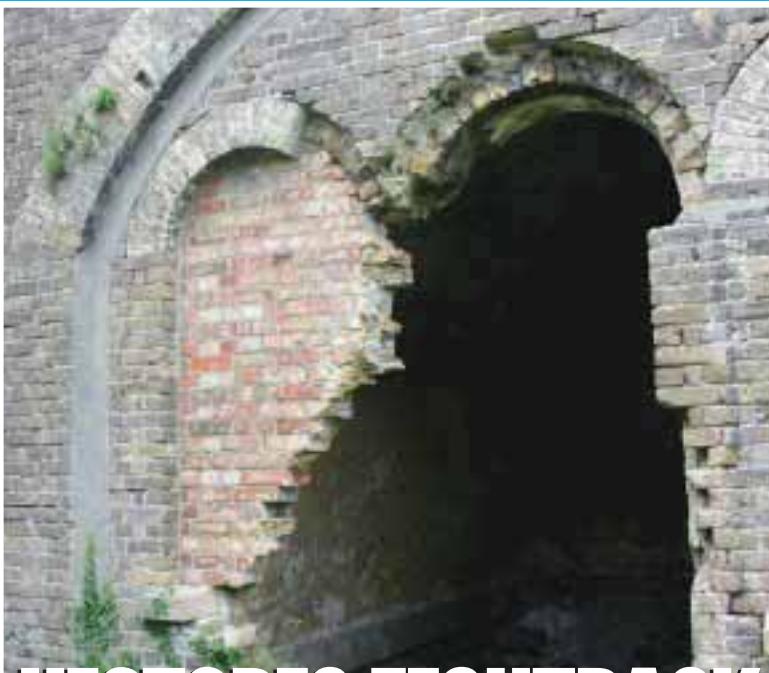
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HISTORIC FIGHTBACK

A landmark crackdown on heritage crime – the first of its kind in England – has been launched with the aim of preventing Kent's history being wiped out by thieves and vandals – **FULL STORY INSIDE**

By **MARIJKE COX**

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AMBITIOUS plans to give thousands of rural households a broadband boost are being drawn up to bring all of Shepway up to speed.

The focus is on Romney Marsh and communities in the north of the district where nearly 7,000 households suffer from slow internet connections.

Shepway council hopes the strategy, called Switching on Shepway, will put the area in a strong position to bid for Government funding later in the year.

Cabinet member for customer contact, Cllr Alan Clifton-Holt, said the authority wanted to improve internet access to show rural areas were "open for business".

"If we are successful, we hope faster internet connections will help create a more attractive environment for rural businesses to grow; improve access to public services for rural communities; open up opportunities for social networking; and ensure rural communities and businesses are not at a disadvantage," he said.

Shepway council is drawing up the strategy in response to the publication of Britain's Superfast Broadband Future – a document published by the Secretary of State for Olympics, Culture, Media and Sport Jeremy Hunt.

The report outlines the Government's aim of having the best broadband network in Europe by 2015. As well as working with residents, Shepway council is also in discussions with other local authorities and technical experts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Airport expansion inquiry under way

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A PUBLIC inquiry into plans to expand Lydd Airport got under way on Tuesday and is scheduled to last 13 weeks.

The £25m expansion plan, which includes a new terminal and a runway extended by almost 300m, was approved by Shepway District Council in March 2010.

But the Government has since ordered an inquiry following objections on environmental grounds.

It opened at Shepway Civic Centre in Folkestone, on Tuesday and then adjourned for the rest of the week.

Site visits will be carried out before the inquiry re-opens on Tuesday February 22.

The new terminal will be able to handle up to 500,000 passengers a year. The council also approved a 150m starter apron, for aircraft to be parked, loaded and boarded.

Supporters of the plan say it will bring huge economic benefits to the area, including the creation of jobs.

Romney Marsh is one of the most depressed areas of Kent and they say this influx could be a lifeline.

They also say an expansion plan would relieve pressure on Heathrow and provide an alternative to an airport in the Thames Estuary, proposed by London mayor Boris Johnson.

But there were more than 12,000 objections to the planning applica-



BREEDING SUCCESS: Purple herons have been spotted at Dungeness

tion, including from Greenpeace, the RSPB, British Energy, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Kent Wildlife Trust and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

The inquiry will look at the issues, touching on ornithology, noise, ecology, nuclear safety and socio-economic considerations.

Members of the public will be able to speak in early July, and a final decision on the application is not expected until late 2011.

Those opposed to the plans say the Dungeness peninsula is one of the most important and sensitive wildlife habitats in the UK and the RSPB maintains that laws protecting Dungeness's wildlife mean that it

is up to the airport to prove that their plans will not damage it.

Sam Dawes, RSPB's South East conservation manager, said: "Any development of Lydd airport threatens the ability to protect this place."

The shingle landscape is home to some unique wildlife and the expanse of coastal wetlands is of European importance for breeding and wintering water birds, as well as an important stopover for migrants.

Last year saw a pair of bitterns breed at the RSPB's Dungeness reserve for the first time and this winter saw record numbers of the species. The reserve also hosted the UK's first pair of breeding purple herons.

Festival just start of summer's fun



TENS of thousands of people are expected to descend on Folkestone this summer, as festival fever breaks out across the seaside town.

The Folkestone Triennial – Britain's biggest outdoor exhibition of public art – launches on June 25, lasting three months.

Chris Kirkham, manager of tourism centre Discover Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh, said the strong line-up would attract entertainment seekers and art and culture lovers.

"The 2011 calendar includes top-name stage shows and celebrity performances, plus classical concerts, art exhibitions and sporting occasions and, not least, music and entertainment put on by hotels, pubs and cafes," he said.

Mr Kirkham said there would be vast opportunities for hotels, restaurants, pubs, and other traders to win over customers.

The Folkestone Triennial, which attracted 100,000 visitors in 2008, will see 19 international artists develop works for the town's streets, squares, beaches and historic buildings to create a cutting edge contemporary public art exhibition.

Live music events held by the Folkestone Fringe will run through-

out the Triennial, and for Ska fans, the successful Skabour Festival is to return from September 2-4.

Other 2011 summer events include the multi-cultural festival from June 9-12, an eco-fair from July 1-2, and a veteran car rally on August bank holiday weekend.

A Charivari folk day is being held in July, an H G Wells festival in September and Euro Militaire – the world's biggest military model exhibition – is coming to the town in September. The Folkestone Book Festival is back in November.

The Venetian Fete returns to the Royal Military Canal in Hythe on August 17, Lydd Club Day carnival is scheduled for June and the New Romney Country Fair for July.

For more information go to www.discoverfolkestone.co.uk.

Pushing case for broadband

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
looking into the potential opportunities to bid for Government funding.

Cllr Clifton-Holt said: "The next step is to get support from residents and business to help us in any funding bid we make. We need to demonstrate strong support for our case."

Folkestone and Hythe MP Damian Collins, who is on the select committee for Culture, Media and Sport, is backing the plans.

"I know just how important good broadband connections will be to our future," he said.

"The Government has set up an initiative to support the provision of broadband services in rural areas, and I will be working with Shepway to see if we can access this support."

"I will also be meeting companies such as Virgin Media, 3, T-Mobile and Orange to discuss how the private sector can help."

"I encourage everybody to help us put the case to the Government to invest in Shepway's broadband future."

Two public meetings are being arranged, one in Romney Marsh and one north of the district.

Channel Chamber of Commerce will also help gather the views of businesses.

Details of the public meetings will be available on the council's website, www.shepway.gov.uk.

Campaign to protect heritage from yobs

A LANDMARK operation cracking down on heritage crime has been launched, in a bid to stop Kent's unique history from being wiped out.

In a groundbreaking move by English Heritage working with police, local authorities and communities, a prevention strategy – the first of its kind in England – has been developed, focusing on the protection of historical sites.

It was launched this week at Dover's Western Heights, one of Britain's most important fortifications which has suffered repeated acts of vandalism over the years, including arson and graffiti.

Shocking figures show crime and anti-social behaviour is on the rise at Kent's cultural sites, with graffiti, illegal metal detecting and lead theft from sacred buildings among the many offences taking place.

In just six months last year, some 500 cases of stolen metal were reported, with a large portion taken from the county's churches.

One of the world's first ever brick-built viaducts, located in Folkestone, was also covered in graffiti by vandals, damage which is irreversible.

Since 2007, there has been a total of £23 million in payouts nationwide by church insurers Ecclesiastical

By MARIJKE COX

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Insurance, prompting the company to introduce a £5,000 limit for replacement metal and damage costs.

Chief Inspector Mark Harrison, who has been seconded from Kent Police to act as policing advisor for English Heritage, said although in some cases there were monetary losses, the loss of archaeological treasures was the most damaging.

"Seventy per cent of the English population – that's about 28 million people – visited a historic site last year," he said.

"Memberships for the National Trust and English Heritage is four million. People have got a deep connection with the history and culture of England."

"This plan is nationwide, but it was launched in Kent because of the relatively-high incidence rates. It's designed to be delivered at a local level by the police, local authorities and communities."

In the next 12 months, the heritage crime initiative will focus on the prevention and detection of four main types of offence: damage caused to historic environments, unlawful excavation, architectural theft and illegal alteration or demolition of listed buildings. The scheme will look at



PREVENTION:
Chief Inspector Mark Harrison and Dr Andrew Richardson, of Dover District Council, and right, some of the damage at Western Heights



raising awareness and bringing enforcement activity to the public's attention, developing intelligence and increasing the understanding of legal action taken against heritage criminals, from verbal warnings to formal prosecutions.

Dover District Council was among more than 40 organisations, from the National Trust to the Church of England, that met in Dover to discuss the strategy.

Tobacco smuggling fears

KENT'S borders could see an influx of tobacco smuggling due to soaring taxation, say industry experts.

Problems with the illicit sale of cigarettes, which legally in the UK can cost as much as £6.70 for a pack of 20 in comparison to about £2.80 in other European countries, are expected to escalate.

The warning from the Tobacco Manufacturers Association (TMA) came in response to a study which revealed more than 20 per cent of adult smokers were considering purchasing tobacco from non-retail sources.

More than 60 per cent believed the situation would worsen over the next 12 months.

The concern over duty evasion has prompted the Government to invest a further £900 million to help with tackling evasion, avoidance and attacks by criminal gangs.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) stressed that officers at the Port of



aware of the vibrant market in illicit tobacco.

"A major concern is that the criminals making these sales don't care who they sell to, and as a result many under the legal age gain access to illicit tobacco," he said.

"Smugglers are innovative and relentless at finding new ways to infiltrate the market, and we welcome the coalition government's recent announcement of additional funding to tackle tax evasion."

Mr Ogden said the tobacco industry had been fully committed to tackling the problem for many years.

"More recently we have provided anti-counterfeit technology to enable law enforcement bodies to readily identify whether tobacco products are genuine or not," he said.

"As an industry we continue to fully support HMRC, UK Border Agency and Trading Standards in their enforcement activity against tobacco smuggling."

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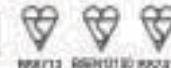


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JOB WELL DONE: The careers fair attracted 90 firms and organisations

Careers fair takes stand to offer new job opportunities

A GROUNDBREAKING coming together of businesses and young people has proved a success in its three years of operation in Folkestone.

This year's Shepway Careers Fair saw 90 companies and organisations take out stands to give students and school pupils a glimpse of the opportunities currently available in the market place.

A key aim of the event is also to keep young people interested in working locally and contributing their skills to east Kent companies as businesses look to progress through testing economic times.

County councilor Leyland Ridings provided the opening address at this year's event, held last Wednesday at the Leas Cliff Hall.

"I think there are as many business opportunities out there as during period of full employment," he said.

"There are more innovation opportunities

By NICK AMES

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

as the business community looks towards developing a wider range of skills.

"In schools and universities there is a far greater emphasis on developing young people's abilities in fields such as finance and marketing as education and business work together to give those coming into the work environment the best chance of success.

"I would very much like to see events such as this extended across Kent so that other educational and businesses communities could benefit as do those in Shepway."

Pupils from grammar schools, comprehensives and colleges attended the day-long event which had stands from companies, visitor attractions and public bodies.

Chelsea Isles, 14, from Pent Valley School said: "It gives us the chance to see what is out there when we leave school."

"The more aware we are of the world of work the better the career choices we can make."

Chris Kirkham of Discover Folkestone is keen to show young people the benefits of the tourist trade to the area.

"Around 3,500 people work in tourism locally – that is seven per cent of the workforce," he said.

"The trade itself brings in £200 million a year. This is a chance to let people know how important that sector is and show them that there are jobs available. If young people want to get ahead they don't have to go up to London or elsewhere. There are opportunities right on their doorstep."

Event organiser Els Howard added: "This bringing together of young people and those who want to harness their talents is the way forward for the local economy to make the best use of the talented people who are about to leave education and enter the world of work."

To view this clip, log on @
www.businessforkent.co.uk



Clr Leyland Ridings opens the event at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone. Search 'jobs fair'

Rantzen to drop in to see refugees

FORMER *That's Life!* presenter Esther Rantzen is to visit a support charity for refugees locked up in Dover's detention centre.

She will meet with representatives from the Dover Detainee Visitor Group on Wednesday, April 6.

The television star will hear from chair Miriam Wood and director Vebi Kosumi about the

work carried out which involves assisting the welfare of immigration detainees held in Dover.

Ms Rantzen will also have a briefing about ongoing projects at the charity.

The Dover Detainee Visitor Group is a non-political, non-campaigning organisation that provides weekly visits to detainees.



VISIT: Esther Rantzen

Late councillor did 'best for the town'

TRIBUTES have been paid to a Deal town councilor who died following a period of ill health.

Lib Dem councilor Keith Turner, who had represented the North Deal ward since 2007, passed away on Monday, February 7.

Chairman of Deal Town Council Ben Bano said: "I was very sorry to hear about Cllr Keith Turner's unexpected death after his recent period of poor health.

"Keith was never afraid to speak his mind and he was

always vocal in advocating what he believed to be best for the town and his community.

"He will be very much missed and our thoughts and sympathy are with his family and friends at this difficult time."

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- tea/coffee AND nightly Free bar
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Ambulance stations could be centralised

By MARIJKE COX

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AMBULANCE depots in three south Kent towns could be shut by the end of this year, with crews relocated to a centralised station.

Under plans by South East Coast Ambulance Trust (SECAmb), a new Ashford-based state-of-the-art depot would take on staff and vehicles currently located at Dover, Folkestone and Lydd.

A trust spokesman said the new "Make Ready" station would be supported by a network of Ambulance Community Response Posts, providing staff with a stop-gap between emergencies.

The initiative would also see ambulances cleaned, restocked and maintained by specialist staff – a task historically left to emergency crews at the beginning and end of every shift.

Plans have not been submitted for the future of the existing stations in Dover, Folkestone and Lydd, which are deemed too poorly-located to meet the needs of patients, but no changes would be made to them until the Ambulance Community Response Posts were up and running.

A SECAmb spokesman said: "No decisions have been taken to close ambulance stations and in no way will the plans reduce the service



members of the public in south Kent receive.

"The introduction of a Make Ready depot in Ashford will improve the service patients receive, as it will free up front-line clinicians' time so they can spend more time with patients, rather than restocking and cleaning.

"Some of the existing ambulance stations, which are in the right locations to best meet patient demand, are likely to be retained as Ambulance Community Response Posts."

He said the future of poorly-located stations, many of which were built more than 30 years ago, would be considered on an individual basis.

SECAmb, which serves Kent, Surrey and Sussex, plans to create 12 Make Ready depots across the region by 2016.

While union leaders at Unison said there would be hardly any difference in service, a spokesman admitted only time would tell.

Roger Laxton, Unison's staff side co-ordinator for SECAmb, said Government response times of eight minutes would still have to be met.

"I doubt there will be problems – if response times were not met and it looked like there was something wrong with the system this would be looked into," he said.

CHANGES:
The Make Ready depots would mean emergency staff would spend more time with patients and less time cleaning and restocking vehicles

Bible readers' email guidance

A MINISTER of the Salvation Army has welcomed the success of a project aimed at getting more people to read the Bible.

Some 250 people signed up to the year-long scheme, started by Captain Philip Layton from the charity's Hythe branch, which saw notes emailed to help participants read five chapters of the New Testament per week.

Captain Layton said he was pleased with the outcome.

"I think a lot of the benefits will be intangible – if it's strengthened someone's Christian faith, for example, we may find that hard to measure," he said.

"But I'm sure that people have got more used to reading their Bibles, and the accompanying notes and questions each week have helped many to understand how the Bible is so incredibly relevant to our lives today."

Walk the dogs to help charity

AN ANIMAL centre is hosting a Valentine's walk to raise money for unwanted dogs.

The event, on Saturday, February 19, by Dover-based charity Chancpixies, will give people wishing to take on a dog the chance to meet the centre's canines.

Dog-owners are also invited to attend.

The three to four mile walk, costing £5, will follow a countryside route.

Manager of Chancpixies, Heidi Anderson, said: "We have some lovely dogs that would really enjoy this walk."

For information go to www.chancpixies.com.

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By **NICK AMES**

nick.ames@kosmedia.co.uk

WOMEN across the county are being called upon to "join the girls" to help beat cancer by entering Tesco and Cancer Research UK's Race for Life.

Organisers want local women to recruit their mums, sisters, daughters, aunts, friends and workmates now events have opened for entries. By registering now, they will have plenty of time to plan and fundraise together before the big day out.

Events will be taking place in Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone, Gillingham, Herne Bay, Folkestone, Margate and Canterbury.

On Sunday June 12, venues will be Capstone Park, Gillingham and Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells. Dunorlan will see two races that day – at 10am and then at 2pm.

Seven days later the race will be held on Folkestone's Leas while Hampton Pier, Herne Bay, will see runners in action on Sunday, June 26.

The weekend of July 9 and 10 will see races staged in Mote Park, Maidstone, and on Sunday, July 24, Palm Bay, Margate, are to host the event.

This year, Race for Life in Canterbury will be held at Godmersham Park House. It will take place on Sunday, July 31. Last year 1,309

women took part and raised vital funds for cancer research. In 2011, organisers are encouraging 3,000 women to put their best feet forward and raise £136,794.

Race for Life is the UK's largest women-only fundraising event series where all the money raised goes to fund Cancer Research UK's life-saving work.

Women of all ages, shapes, sizes and abilities join together to walk, jog or run five kilometres to raise money to help beat cancer. All women are welcome, regardless of whether they are on their own or part of a group.

Every hour, around five people are diagnosed with cancer in the south east. When Race for Life started in 1994, many people diagnosed with cancer did not survive.

Since then, money generated by Race for Life has supported Cancer Research UK's work and now more people are beating the disease than ever before.

Organiser Hayley Reynolds said: "Race for Life is a unique celebration of sisterhood and pride. The atmosphere is amazing, with women from all walks of life coming together to make a positive difference to people affected by cancer.

"They motivate and inspire each other to complete the course with many simply walking round, chatting and having fun.

"In 2011, we hope more women than ever before will take part. We need our Race for Life regulars, as well as women who took part years ago, to join together with many new faces to help save more lives."



JOIN IN: Women of all ages and abilities are asked to sign up for a Race for Life event

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Saturday 19th February

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Friday 18th March

Hard Road Blue

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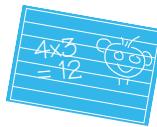
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BREAK TIME



Aaliyah picks up music trophy

YOUNG musicians from Sandwich Technology School have battled it out on stage in a bid to win a sought-after music award.

The competition saw students from Year Seven up to Year 12 performing to an audience of their peers and dignitaries in the hope of taking home the Sgt Duane Barwood Inter College Music Trophy.

One winner was picked from each category, but the overall star was named as Aaliyah Ginn, who performed a version of Irene Cara's Out Here On My Own.

Preparations are already underway for the next competition.

Facebook guide for new teachers

A TEACHING union has called on all schools to come up with rules about how teachers use Facebook.

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) said new teachers are encountering problems stemming from their use of social networking sites.

The issues include embarrassing pictures staff have posted online, unaware they may be available to the general public, and pupils who discover too much about teachers' lives outside school.

The NAHT wants every school to set out exactly what is and isn't allowed, to avoid potentially damaging situations.

"Schools need to get up there and state things clearly," said Russell Hobby, of the NAHT.

"You're used to a much more relaxed environment at university, where what you say and do doesn't matter so much," he said. "Then you're suddenly in a place where you've got people expecting you to be role models."

Prayer room is focus of thought

PUPILS turned a school library into a temporary prayer room as part of their religious education lessons.

The students from Stelling Minnis Church of England Primary School, near Lympne, learned about faiths from around the world, with visits from local rabbi Cliff Cohen and virtual tours of a mosque and Buddhist synagogue.

Youngsters turned their library into a creative prayer room where they used Celtic prayers.

Rabbi Cohen spoke to the children about Jewish artefacts and his own role.

Canterbury Kidz Klub also led a puppet workshop on the Christian parable of the Prodigal Son.

Library investment is a story of success

By MARIJKE COX

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

STUDENTS at one of Kent's new academies have swapped their gadgets for books after a renovation of the school library.

The investment at Dover Christ Church Academy saw the introduction of hundreds of new books and a computer system recommending literature to pupils.

Library manager Katy Fuller said when she took on the role three years ago, before the school became an academy, replacing Archers Court School in September, children were only interested in television and technology.

"Only very rarely and in some cases never did they pick up a book unless it was in a classroom," she said.

"However, the last few months have seen a remarkable turnaround and the borrowing of books has increased dramatically."

Principal Richard Williams, who was keen to see reading become the norm and "cool", said one of the signs of a healthy school was the state of the library.

"It delights me every time I walk past the library at break and lunchtime to see that it is standing room only," he said.

"The knock-on effect of this upsurge in interest in reading will be an improvement in lessons and learning across the academy.

"The work, commitment and enthusiasm of Katy should not be under-estimated."

He said he was delighted that a small but



READING ROOM: Pupils' interest in books has been revived by the new library system

determined investment in one area of the school was reaping such rewards.

Ms Fuller, a self-confessed bookworm, said she had found the surge in interest in reading exciting.

"Children are realising that reading can be enjoyable as well as being part of their education," she said.

The library boasts a new computer-based programme recommending books to students that matches them to their interests.

The programme also quizzes them once they have finished a book to check their under-

standing and to find out how much they enjoyed reading.

Teachers at the school have backed the initiative and actively support and encourage children to read.

Last year, Kent County Council announced the decision to shut its school library service, although this only affected schools still under local authority control and not academies.

The council defended the move, stating teachers could use a new ticket scheme to borrow an allocation of books from their local library.

Pupils quizzed over poor exam grades

TEACHERS, parents and even the pupils themselves may be asked to help explain why Kent's primary schools are continuing to under-perform.

Progress in the county's Key Stage 2 Sats results have been below the national average for years, with 17 per cent of schools currently failing to achieve the 55 per cent floor target of pupils achieving level four and above in English and maths.

Members of Kent County Council's attainment select committee will be holding a year-long review into the issue and have revealed they could take evidence from children in an attempt to get to the root of the problem.

Teachers, governors, academics and council officers may also be asked to contribute. The select committee is chaired by the council's former cabinet member for education, Cllr Chris Wells.

He said: "We have pockets of deprivation in Kent and people tend to think the two are linked. While that's generally true, it's not always the case."

"There must be other factors that come into it, such as the effect a change in leadership might have on a school."

Introduced in 1995, the KS2 Sats – officially National Curriculum tests – are

taken by pupils in their final year of primary education.

The results of the multiple-choice exams have a large influence on where a school finishes in official league tables, which some unions say leads to children spending too much time learning how to tackle them and not enough on other subjects.

As a result, 24 primaries out of more than 400 in Kent took part in a national boycott last May. Cllr Wells said there were many possible reasons as to why some pupils perform better at KS2 than others.

He said: "Most children have a good idea of what direction they are heading in before they even take their Sats, so it can be very hard to motivate them."

"You also have to consider those children who do not eat breakfast or do not do their homework, as well as looked-after children who tend to do less well in school."

"In a class of 30 pupils it can only take two or three to drag the results down. What we may find in particular schools is that a combination of these issues is affecting their performance."

The select committee is due to publish its report, a list of recommendations, in December.

Hard work pays off for ICT students

A GROUP of students have been commended for completing a pilot course examining the use of academic ICT skills in everyday life.

Head teacher of Pent Valley Technology College in Folkestone Mario Citro presented the Year 11 pupils with the Level Two Junior ICT Leaders Awards.

The group completed four ICT (Information and Communications Technology) GCSE units of work and a unit of Creative I-Media.

Programme founder and manager Marc Smith, who organised the pilot scheme, said the students' work was of exceptional quality.

"All leaders demonstrated an outstanding ability to lead others and present their evidence in a clear and concise manner," he said. "Their portfolios will be used as exemplar work for others to aspire to."

The group had to undertake a range of tasks including lending ICT support to the learning and teaching environment.

They also provided training to staff and students in the use of a variety of software, and built up a working knowledge of the ICT equipment.

Younger pupils were invited by the group to attend an extra-curricular ICT club focusing on the animation skills required in the advertising industry.

Those involved in the pilot programme also hosted two visitor sessions for a group of home-tutored students and some Nepalese elders.

Head teacher Mr Citro said: "I am immensely proud of the achievements of these young people."

For more information about Pent Valley Technology School visit www.pentvalley.com.

your letters

YOUR LETTERS

'Big Society' just a big cover-up

David Cameron's attempts to portray the Big Society as anything other than just a cover-up of his coalition government's ridiculous savage cuts is just a joke.

If it wasn't bad enough that Tories have got their hands back on the steering wheel of this country, now it seems they are trying to slash everything and make us all do the work for free.

It is a farce. Places like Folkestone and Dover need more investment, not the reduction of yet more services in pursuit of never-ending cost savings.

J Knight,
Folkestone

Schools success is great news

Full marks to Kent County Council for being one of those local authorities which challenged the Government's cutbacks in the Building Schools for the

Future programme.

This so-called coalition has got away with its swinging axe for too long.

KCC is a Conservative authority which had the nerve to take on a Tory Government – which is more than the Lib Dems have done in Parliament.

Let's see this as a rallying cry to make sure public services and the future for our young people do not fall by the wayside in an attempt to save a few pounds.

Rebecca Toms,
by email

The fans need a reason to watch

It may be more than a month before cricketers even report back for pre-season in the county game, but already I feel rather alarmed at Kent's prospects.

I know we have managed to hold on to some of our players but the lack of any signings surely cannot bode well for the future of the club.

We need at the very least to get back into the top flight and have a decent run in one or another of the cups. And in order to generate revenue we need to get people in

through the turnstiles.

Going past St Lawrence Ground recently it looked like a building site – which let's face it, it is.

Who wants to go and watch a day's play in a place with dug up turf and scaffolding all around?

Ian Paynter,
by email

Supporters have short memories

How worrying it was to hear on the radio this morning that Dover Athletic were bringing into question Martin Hayes' leadership of the club after such a short slump in form.

The man took the club to a fantastic money-spinning FA Cup run – doesn't the fact that will keep the taxman from the door count for something?

Keith Rose,
Dover

Disappointment puts us under par

The closing down of Pfizer – well known as manufacturers of Viagra – is bad for east Kent to be sure. And no doubt we will see the side effects across the entire county

given the scale of the job losses.

But it could be even worse news for one man set to visit the area this year.

With the Open Golf approaching this summer I have to ask – will Tiger Woods bother to turn up?

Paul Harris,
by email

Potholes extend misery of winter

The snow may be long gone from the county's roads but evidence of the big freeze shows no sign of disappearing.

I refer, of course, to the many potholes which still make driving a hazard, especially in the area where I live.

Rutted roads are not only bad for cars they are a safety hazard too so it is about time the Highways Agency got to work on filling them in.

Helen Cale,
by email



In an age of austerity will anyone be getting out the bunting and laying down tables in the street overloaded with food and drink?

I can just about remember the Queen's Silver Jubilee and the Charles and Diana wedding and that seemed to be the order of the day – street parties and celebrations everywhere.

But I can't see it happening this year.

No-one is interested and why spend money on celebrating the future lives of two people you don't know – and never will?

Pauline Anderson,
by email

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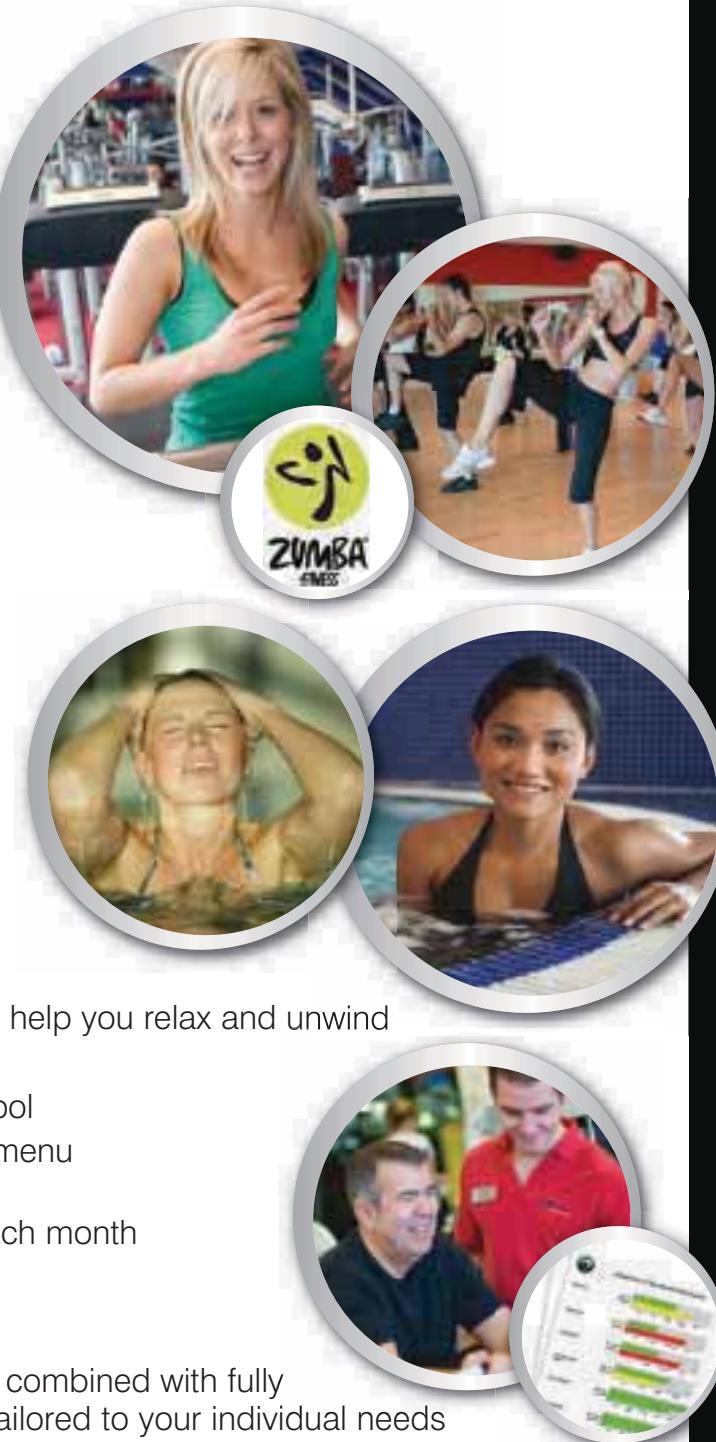
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Tory MPs turn on KCC over plans to close care homes

By MARIJKE COX

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

CONSERVATIVE MPs have railed against plans to close care homes for the elderly, branding them "very wrong" and demanding intervention from ministers.

And the Government has also revealed the controversial plans drawn up by Kent County Council could be dragged through the courts in a judicial review.

The latest developments in the fight against the closures came in a special House of Commons debate.

Last month KCC announced it was going ahead with plans to shut, rebuild or sell 11 of the homes it currently runs, despite more than 16,000 people voicing their opposition during a 19-week consultation.

The authority has since been reported to the Audit Commission over the way the decision-making process was handled, and two of Kent's Conservative MPs – Charlie Elphicke (Dover and Deal) and Gareth Johnson (Dartford) – attacked the Tory-run council during a Parliamentary debate.

They raised particular concerns about the care homes due for closure – Ladesfield in Whitstable, Sampson Court in Deal, The Limes

JUDICIAL REVIEW LOOMS AS MINISTER REFUSES TO ACT

in Dartford, and Lawrence House in Folkestone.

Mr Elphicke said: "My constituent, whose mother has been at Sampson Court for four years, asked the council representative at a public meeting during the consultation process where the 15 EMI (elderly mentally infirm) residents would go.

"The council had no answer other than 'the local area'. There is great concern among my constituents that there is no alternative place for them to go.

"There is no doubt that KCC's decision has left less choice, not more. I would ask the minister to review whether the council has an effective plan for elderly people."

In addition to the four care homes earmarked for closure, the council plans to demolish Bowles Lodge in Hawkhurst, Cornfields in Dover and Manorbrooke in Dartford, and replace them with 'extra care' social housing that would allow residents to live independently but with carers available 24 hours a day.

The other homes involved in the shake-up are Wayfarers in Sandwich, which will be sold

as a going concern, and three in Swale – Kiln Court in Faversham, Doubleday Lodge in Sittingbourne, and Blackburn Lodge in Sheerness – that the council will effectively sell off to the private sector and negotiate an agreement retaining rights to places.

Mr Johnson said during Tuesday's debate that he did not think KCC had explored all the alternatives.

He added: "No-one in this chamber would want their home taken from them, and yet that is precisely what is happening in care homes across Kent.

"The residents are happy where they are – very happy – and they want to stay there.

"I hope that even at this late stage the homes can be saved and an alternative solution found by the county council, if necessary with support from central government.

"I understand what KCC is trying to achieve but I feel the planned process of closure is wrong – very wrong. A rethink is needed."

KCC says the proposals will save the authority £2 million a year but the priority is to pro-

vide better care and more choice for residents.

While admitting that badly-handled care home closures can be fatal for some residents, health minister Paul Burstow said it was not for the Government to intervene.

He said: "My understanding is that KCC's approach is not a sudden, hasty, knee-jerk response to tighter financial circumstances.

"I know there are great concerns among those who have led the campaign against the closures, and I am told lawyers have been instructed to look at pursuing the matter through a judicial review.

"In that way the process the council has gone through can be tested, and if it is flawed the decisions will be reopened and further options considered."

KCC has always maintained the consultation process was thorough and fair.

Cabinet member for adult social services, Cllr Graham Gibbons, previously told this paper: "We have not conducted these evaluations in secret or tried to hide the evaluation.

"The alternative proposals were reviewed against the four main reasons behind the proposals by qualified and experienced officers representing each aspect of the organisation.

"The commissioning process has checks and balances built in, not least of which is the political scrutiny framework and the legal responsibility carried by the statutory post of director of adult social services."

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Homelessness charity fears rental market 'perfect storm'

A LEADING homelessness charity has warned of mounting pressure on services as the amount of privately-rented accommodation looks set to decline rapidly.

Chief executive of Porchlight Mike Barrett said this, combined with the blow to the economy following Pfizer's announcement it was pulling out of Kent, would create a "perfect storm".

Impact

His comments came in response to a Government housing benefits impact report which revealed the availability of private-rented housing would reduce by an average of 20 per cent in the county over the next year.

In Dover and Shepway, the current 55 per cent availability is predicted to drop to 33; Maidstone from 52 per cent to 33; Thanet from 53 per cent to 36; and Canterbury 51 per cent to 39.

And with house-building targets, which includes affordable homes, being missed by 15 per cent since 2002 – with only 27,830 of 32,700 being built – industry insiders warned that

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

homelessness would be unavoidable for some.

Mr Barrett said the reduction in availability coupled with changes to the Local Housing Allowance, where housing benefit is being slashed as part of sweeping Coalition Government cuts, would create a two-fold problem. He admitted that Kent-wide charity Porchlight, which supports vulnerable homeless people or those at risk of homelessness, was already seeing a rise in demand on services.

"The problem the changes create is two-fold. On the one hand there will be reduced housing stock for us to move clients into, and on the other there is an increased demand for services," he said.

"This creates a bottleneck in the system where we can't move people on who are ready to live independently, in order to free up services for those who need help."

The impact report also showed that 50 per cent of people in receipt of housing benefit in the South East would be worse off. Mr Barrett

called it a double blow and warned it could trigger a sharp rise in homelessness in Kent, particularly in rural areas.

"We are already seeing increased demand across the county," he said.

"Such a major reduction in benefits will hit those already vulnerable hard. With the addition of blows to the fragile economy such as the closure of Pfizer, we have the ingredients for the perfect storm."

Warning

Figures released by the National Housing Federation show a 25 per increase in the number of homeless people in rural areas nationwide. The federation warned the problem would worsen as the supply of affordable homes failed to keep up with waiting lists.

Bosses at the organisation called on local authorities to draw up housing action plans setting out how to meet the needs of the area.

Chief executive David Orr said: "When people think of the countryside they don't normally associate it with homelessness.

"But our research shows that it is a problem that affects rural areas as well as urban places."



COLD COMFORT: It is feared a drop in private rented accommodation in the county will lead to a big increase in homelessness this year

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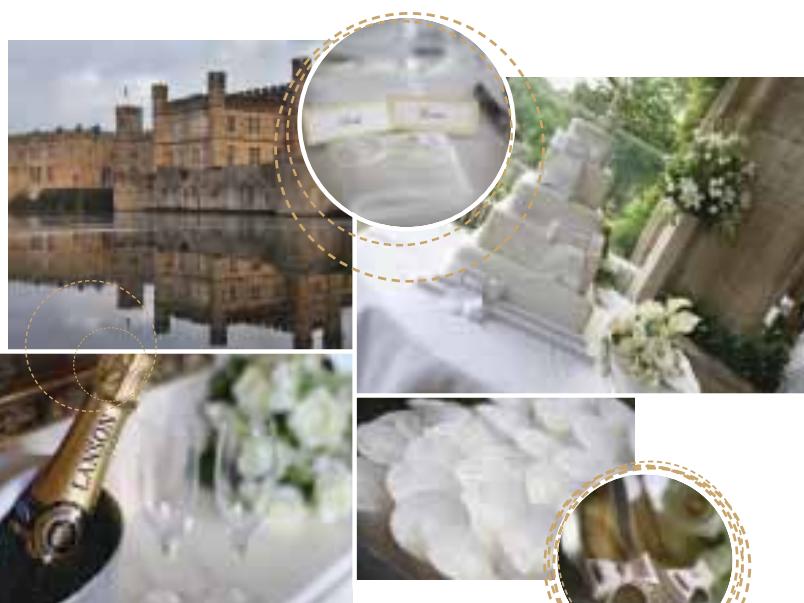
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IN MY VIEW



By Joe Bill

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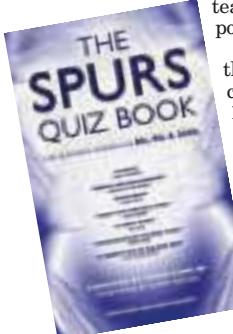
THE SPURS QUIZ BOOK

IF THERE is one thing Tottenham Hotspur fans all have in common, it is that we love to be tormented.

It seems we are not satisfied with winning. We love to tear ourselves apart, racking our brains to find the solution to problems that probably don't exist.

So a quiz book with more than 1,000 questions about Tottenham Hotspur Football Club might just be enough to fill the midweek void when the team isn't playing.

Not only did my father and I enjoy trying to outsmart each other on the team-knowledge front, we also enjoyed the constant reminders of how rubbish our football team was at various points in our lives.



The questions cover three decades of the club's history from the 1980s through to the present day.

The book is well thought out and features a nice number of alternative questions and brain-teasers that you would not normally find in any generic quiz book.

I would go so far as to say that I doubt it would be of any interest to anyone other than Spurs fans or those obsessed with football trivia. However, it is a brilliant birthday present for any football fan admitting to be fond of the north London club, and is well designed and easy to understand, even for us.

Topics are listed with 10 questions apiece. The answers are found in the back to make sure no cheating can be easily accomplished.

The book is full of nice, neat little touches, including two forewords, one by legendary singer-songwriter Chas Hodges.

A self-proclaimed Tottenham nut, the man who was one half of Spurs Cup-final-anthem heroes Chas and Dave gives an interesting insight into the ups and downs of the boys from White Hart Lane.

Even the cover and lettering is decked out in Spurs colours. Heaven forbid if there had been a single dollop of red ink on that paper...

The questions were compiled by Chris Cowlin, who does hint at being a Spurs fan, slightly, and he would have to be to have created such a book so steeped in the history and pain that only a Spurs fan would know.

And if you're like me and started reading the book while on your own, then you can easily read the question, think you know the answer and then quickly realise you don't.

But when Dad asks you it later, you can instantly reel off your response with confidence but a slight sense of self-loathing.

Oh look, we're back to the start again.

Published by Apex Publishing, The Spurs Quiz Book is priced at £9.49.

CINEMA

NEVER LET ME GO (12A)

BASED on the Booker Prize-nominated novel by Kazuo Ishiguro, Mark Romanek's bleak film is set in a dystopian future when genetic clones are bred and nurtured to provide vital organs for humans.

It's a frightening, plausible vision of medical breakthroughs and moral dilemmas to come, and Ishiguro powerfully explores the fates of three clones as they search for a place in a cruel, unforgiving world that regards them as raw materials for survival.

On the page, Never Let Me Go is devastating, bookmarked into three chapters that represent the key phases of the characters' painfully brief lives.

On the screen, Alex Garland's adaptation doesn't pack the same punch, keeping us at a distance from the clones as they wrestle with destructive human emotions.

Romanek's film is artfully composed, complemented by a melancholic score by Rachel Portman and the cast invest themselves fully in their performances. However, there's an emotional chill in every frame, reflected in the muted colour palette of cinematographer Adam Kimmel, which never lets us go.

The film adopts the same three-part structure as the novel, opening in 1978 at a Hailsham boarding school, where classmates Kathy, Tommy and Ruth follow the dictates of headmistress Miss Emily.

New guardian Miss Lucy eventually tells her wide-eyed students that they will become adults only briefly and will donate their vital organs, completing their short lives with the third or fourth harvest.

"You have to know who you are and what you are. It's the only way you can lead decent lives," she tells the children.

As they grow up, Kathy keeps a watchful eye on Tommy, who is weak compared with the other boys, but her affections are thwarted when Ruth pairs off with the lad.

The trio moves to The Cottages in 1985, a residential complex that allows contact with humans.

Ruth, Tommy and Kathy's complex relationship becomes strained, reaching its (un)natural conclusion in the mid-90s when Kathy becomes a carer and watches her fellow pupils fulfil their original design.

Never Let Me Go is distinguished by emotionally raw performances, with younger actors spookily well matched to their older counterparts as the characters grow up.

The film's final chapter threatens to reduce us to tears but falls agonisingly short of breaking our hearts. Perhaps one needs a transplant from one of the clones.

TRUE GRIT (15)

JOHN Wayne won the Oscar – from his only nomination – as hard-drinking gunslinger Rooster Cogburn in Henry Hathaway's 1969 version of True Grit, adapted from the novel by Charles Portis.

Almost 40 years later, Jeff Bridges is nominated for the Oscar for the very same role in Joel and Ethan Coen's masterful reworking that layers this bloody tale of retribution with the brothers' trademark black humour.

It's clear from his first appearance, shifting nervously in a courtroom witness stand, that Bridges is not paying homage to his predecessor. He mumbles as if he is permanently chewing on a ball of tobacco, spitting out polished one-liners like bullets.

After a chaotic gunfight, he reneges on a promise to bury the fallen because the "ground is too hard – if these men wanted a decent burial they should have got themselves killed in summer".

So that's how the west was won.

"I was just 14 years of age when a coward by the name of Tom Chaney shot my father down and robbed him of his life," explains Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld) in her opening voiceover. "You must pay for everything in this world, one way and another."

And so Mattie seeks out marshal Rooster Cogburn (Bridges) and hires him to help her track down Tom Chaney, who has taken up with Lucky Ned Pepper and his gang.

NEVER LET ME GO: Keira Knightley stars as Ruth, Carey Mulligan as Kathy and Andrew Garfield as Tommy in this moving adaptation



A tenacious Texas Ranger called LeBoeuf, who has been on Chaney's trail for some time, joins the hunting party.

True Grit has an impressive 10 Oscar nominations and deserves every single one.

Production design is impeccable, beautifully evoking the era when a gun spoke just as loudly as words.

Steinfeld, who was 13 when the film was made, is a revelation as the plucky daughter on a quest for vengeance. She is utterly believable, holding her own against her seasoned co-stars.

The Coens canter through the brilliantly orchestrated gun fights but always remain tightly focused on the characters and the delightful if fractious relationship between Mattie and Rooster.

YOGI BEAR 3D (U)

THIS lovable bear gained a cult following in the 1960s, pursuing his beloved "pic-a-nic baskets" in the fictional Jellystone Park, accompanied by dutiful sidekick Boo Boo.

The character's perseverance in the face of disaster and oft-repeated catchphrases ("I'm smarter than the average bear!") ensured Yogi entertained successive generations, so it was only a matter of time before Hollywood gave Yogi and Boo Boo a makeover.

Live action and the digital effect don't always gel convincingly in Eric Brevig's film, and the plot is noticeably stretched to fill the running time; however, Dan Aykroyd and Justin Timberlake offer cheerful impersonations of the furry heroes and the underlying environmental message is delivered with a refreshingly light touch. There's nothing here to tarnish fond memories.

If anything, Yogi Bear 3D clings on to the wholesome, old-fashioned notions of the past,

including a heartfelt speech "to fight for the things you love, whether it's a park, a girl or a roast-beef sandwich".

Yogi Bear 3D is an energetic jaunt into the great outdoors, plying slapstick and tender romance that should appeal to young and old.

GNOME & JULIET 3D (U)

SHAKESPEARE'S tale of star-cross'd lovers and self-sacrifice is given a new lick of paint in Kelly Asbury's fast-paced computer-animated comedy.

Set in the gardens of fair Verona Drive, Gnomeo & Juliet pits feuding clans of blue and red ornaments against one another, set to a soundtrack of classic and original songs by Elton John, also the film's executive producer.

The irreverent tone is struck from the opening frames when a pint-sized gnome shuffles on to a stage and tells us "The story you are about to see has been told before. A lot".

Indeed it has, but Asbury's film tries to distinguish itself with visual gags and pop-culture references.

High-speed lawnmower chases involving a beast of a machine called the Terrafirminator are juxtaposed with the first meeting of the eponymous lovers, set to a smoochy ballad.

Alarmingly, the script has been cobbled together by seven writers, which might explain why for all its boundless cheer and cute animal sidekicks, Gnomeo & Juliet is not quite the perfect gnomance it could be.

Gnomeo & Juliet doesn't outstay its welcome and Asbury draws on his experience to infuse a quintessentially British story with enough broad comedy to ensure the film kicks some grass on the other side of the Atlantic.

We root for the pint-sized central characters, right up to the madcap, overblown finale.

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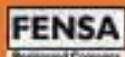
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Standing up for his beliefs

Richard Herring explores his God complex in this week's Canterbury show



BY ED HILL

RICHARD Herring first found fame back in the 90s as part of the comedy duo Lee and Herring.

TV series such as *Fist Of Fun* and *This Morning* with Richard not Judy

meant he developed a cult following with young fans, along with his friend Stewart Lee.

When the partnership ended, Herring

worked hard establishing himself as a solo

performer and gained a reputation for tackling

weighty topics with his intelligence and play-

ful charm.

He said: "It was tough to begin with, but I think I have found my own niche now. I put all my energies into the double act, so when that finished I had to work out what I was doing and why.

"I went back to doing stand-up. By going out and performing, you do find your own way. I had worked with Stewart for 15 years, so it was inevitable people would make comparisons."

But Herring says that although the topics the two comedians cover may have similar starting points, how they approach them is very different: "You will see common threads in our work. I think audiences know what to expect from Stewart when he talks about something. When I tackle a topic, it could be very different each time and the people who like what I do appreciate that."

In Herring's latest show at the Gulbenkian Theatre on Thursday he tackles perhaps the biggest topic of all: religion.

Christ On A Bike: The Second Coming is a new version of one of his first solo shows created 10 years ago.

Obsession

He said: "It's about my obsession with Jesus. I was brought up a Christian, although now I am an atheist. The idea started when I visited my parents. They are Christians – we argued about it and my mum said 'If you don't believe in Jesus, why do you spend so much time reading and talking about him?'. I wanted to investigate that."

When the show was first staged at the Edinburgh Festival, Herring had also reached a landmark in life to compare to the Son of God: "I was 33, the same age as Jesus when he died. I wanted to see if I might actually be Jesus myself in a delusional kind of way and see if I had achieved as much as he did."

"Christianity works because so many people can identify with Jesus. I see him as a satirist and iconoclast and that's how I see myself – but then you get murderers and mentally-ill people who see themselves in him as well."

Herring is not afraid to tackle big topics. In his last show he sported a Hitler-style moustache as a starting point to talk about racism.

He said: "I like to push things and make people think about their assumptions. That is

part of the job aside from making people laugh. Liberal apathy has just as much to do with the BNP doing well in an election as anything else. We are all responsible."

And although it may be a serious topic, audiences can be assured Herring will provide plenty of laughs.

He said: "If you make something funny and make people think about it at the same time, that is the best thing. I don't want to do comedy that is just gag after gag with no reason behind it."

Now aged 43, Herring is returning to the show with a more mature point of view.

He said: "I suppose I am a bit older and a bit less judgemental about people who disagree with me. The show is a balanced look at the subject and ends on a positive note about Christian philosophy. When I was younger I was just angry about religion, now I have a greater understanding about why people believe in the things they do."

"With all my comedy I think very carefully about what I am saying. I don't necessarily go out to antagonise people. If I do push something I think very hard about why I am doing it."

Herring says only the most blinkered Christian would be offended by the show: "Lots of Christians have enjoyed it. Clergymen have said they wish they could talk as openly about religion as I do."

"I only ask the questions that any sensible person would ask. If you are not asking those questions, then perhaps you ought to. Faith isn't just about blindly agreeing with everything."

Herring did a show about another major landmark in life, turning 40 three years ago. Did he still think he would be cracking jokes as middle age approaches?

He said: "I think a lot of people who have success on TV early on give up doing the live work and then lose their way. Luckily I have ended up by having a much more satisfying career as a comedian."

"When you're young you may be able to get a show together and have a few jokes, but it's good to be able to relate to people once you have lived life a bit."

"Coming back to do stand-up has given me a second life in comedy. When I was 20 I didn't really enjoy doing it. I used to think it was limiting, but now I relish how free it is. It's a very immediate art form and I am delighted to still be doing it."

• *Christ On A Bike* is on at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury this Thursday, February 17. Phone 01227 769075 or visit the website www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian to book.



IDENTITY: Funny man Richard Herring explains why he sees a lot of Jesus in himself

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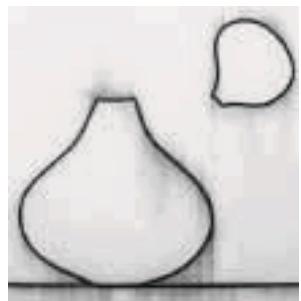
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urday, February 26, highlights
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between colours, tone and lines,
so that all the elements could be
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Picture: DERRICK GREAVES

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Wright stud-
ied in London,
graduating from
the Royal College
Of Art in 1987
where he was
awarded the Henry Moore Bursary for the
duration of his studies.

Since that time he has shown his work in
major venues around the world and has
many works in private collections. Although
originally producing installations and
sculpture, he is now known for his painting.

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A secret to shout about

RESTAURANT REVIEW

BY DAVE MAIRS

"WE believe that we are the best restaurant in Ashford, and possibly Kent."

At first sight, the first part of The Secret Garden's claim might seem a little bullish. Sadly, though, there are few, I suspect, who would take issue with it.

Things don't get any better in Ashford, unless you're a rich developer looking to get even richer, and – a good Indian restaurant aside (the Zarin) – there is little in the town to detain the discerning palate for long.

As for the second factor in the equation, Kent certainly has a growing, and improving, choice of eateries, even if it is not quite yet where we would wish it. So it would indeed be something if The Secret Garden could lay claim to the title of the county's finest.

The Secret Garden is not actually in Ashford, which, while arguably disqualifying it from the 'best in town' contest, can never be a bad thing. It is in Mersham-le-Hatch business village, which is by no means as depressing a venue as it might sound.

Indeed, it's all rather idyllic, with the business village evolving from the 19th-century buildings clustered around a cobbled courtyard on the Mersham-le-Hatch estate.

The Secret Garden itself used to be the stable block, while its walled gardens are a delight best left, it must be said, for the spring and summer.

There's a feeling that you're entering a special world as you pull off the A20 into the large, gravelled car park, and the air of refinement



strengthens on entering the restaurant. It's genteel, posh even. But it's delightfully posh and, let's face it, Kent could do with a bit more posh.

And, even better, the food is brilliant. We had had a near-flawless meal, the only imperfect aspect of a superb dining experience being the unfathomably long time it took to sort out the bill. When that's the closest you can come to a criticism, you know you're on to something.

Secret Garden maybe, but its charms are clearly widely known, and the place had a healthy number of people in attendance when we visited. A word, too, for the fact that a full lunchtime menu is available – we've all, I'm sure, had times when we've struggled to find somewhere suitable at that time.

Satisfaction

I started with Kentish beer-battered monkfish fritters with celeriac and apple coleslaw (£7.95). The batter – always a potential difficulty – was cooked to perfection (delicately crisp, not crunchy, and certainly no sogginess), while the fish was beautiful, fresh and white.

For my companion, the opener was warm salad of Mersham venison with bacon and egg (£6.45). He uttered an expletive (quietly, given our surroundings) which suggested he found it greatly to his satisfaction. Other than that, I cannot say.

An excellent, but not overwhelming, selection of main courses provided a welcome quandary, but for me slow-braised lamb shoulder with champ potatoes and rosemary and bacon jus (£15.45) proved a top choice.

The lamb was wonderfully tender and combined perfectly with the bed of champ potatoes on which it sat, with the jus adding the appropriate zip.



The accompanying vegetables were crisp and of high quality, and the side dish of seasonal root Dauphinoise potato (£2.95) cooked to perfection, although a little more of the latter would have been appreciated. Haute cuisine and all that, but if food is good, we want a good-sized portion of it.

My friend opted for supreme of guinea fowl with puy lentils, roasted salsify and parsley pesto (£15.95).

Guinea fowl again proved itself one of the finest of game meats, and still a puzzlingly scarce find on restaurant menus, and its devourer declared it excellent.

With a couple of glasses of wine and coffees to wrap things up in this special place, a final bill of £75.05 could not be faulted.

The Secret Garden – Kent's best? It's up there, no question. A couple of other venues also reserve a fond place in my culinary psyche, so I tell you what, if any restaurants would like to put themselves forward as contenders, I'll be happy to oblige...

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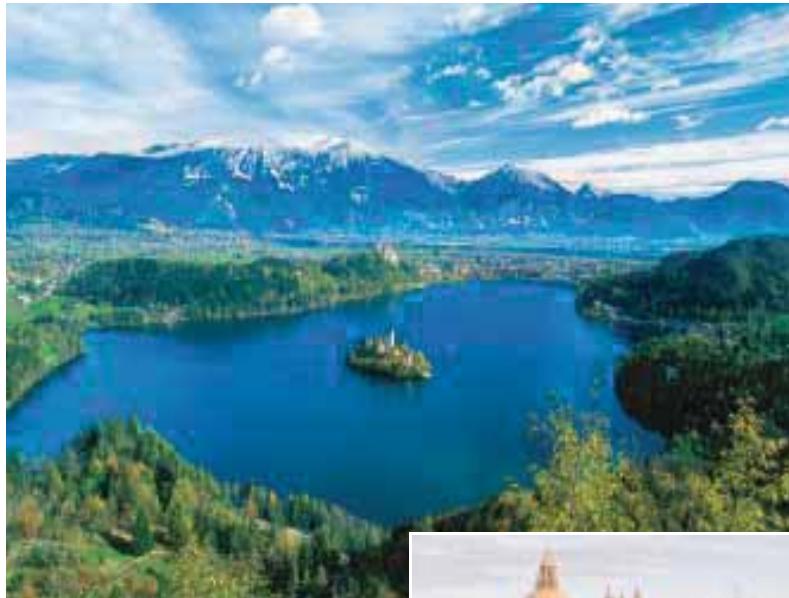


Reader Holidays

KOS 20/02/11

Slovenia, Croatia & Venice

Escorted Holiday by Rail - overnight sleeper train to Venice



Departs September 28, 2011

Bordered by Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia, Slovenia has a little of each in its character and landscapes. Experience the delights of the capital, Ljubljana, the stunning beauty of Lake Bled and the unspoilt coastal resort of Piran. In Croatia, we visit charming Rovinj, voted as the cleanest seaside town in Europe. In Venice you'll find jaw-dropping vistas at every turn.

Our journey to Slovenia combines the swift Eurostar, London to Paris, then the overnight train to Venice, in a private 2-berth cabin. With an afternoon departure from London and just 1 train change, we'll be in Venice the next morning, ready to enjoy a leisurely coach drive across the border into neighbouring Slovenia.

We stay at 2 centres in Slovenia - 5 nights at a lakeside hotel in Bled and 7 nights in the seaside resort of Portoroz.

Our transfer between the resorts includes a ride on the Bohinj Railway - one of the great European railway journeys.

INCLUDED:

- Champagne check-in at London St Pancras
- Escorted throughout
- Afternoon departure on Eurostar to Paris
- Overnight sleeper train to and from Venice
- 5 nights half-board at a 3-star Lakeside hotel on Lake Bled
- Entertainment at the hotel in Bled most evenings
- Bohinj railway journey



- 7 nights half-board at a 4-star resort hotel in Portoroz

• Excursions to Ljubljana and Piran in Slovenia, Rovinj on the Istrian Peninsula in Croatia and Venice, Italy

- Optional trips include a Lakes, Mountains and Cable-car excursion and a Cruise along the Adriatic coast
- Return rail travel to London
- All transfers abroad

15 DAYS
£1499 pp
Quote SV9-KOS

Riviera of Flowers, Côte D'Azur & Monaco

Escorted Holiday by Rail - afternoon departure from London



Departs September 17, 2011

This super holiday starts with a Champagne check-in before an escorted afternoon departure by Eurostar from St Pancras, London to Paris or Lille. After an overnight stay we continue by TGV to Nice and our hotel in Alassio. On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night and included visits to Monaco, Portofino, Eze & San Remo.

INCLUDED:

- Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras
- Escorted throughout
- Afternoon departure on Eurostar to Lille or Paris
- 1 night hotel B&B in Lille or Paris
- TGV rail travel to Nice
- 6 buffet breakfasts & 6 dinners with wine, water

- tea/coffee AND nightly Free bar
- 6 nights in Alassio at a 3-star hotel
- 1 evening with live musical entertainment
- Included excursions as stated above
- Return rail travel to London
- All transfers abroad

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£849 pp
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Tuscany Coast & Country

Escorted Holiday by Rail - afternoon departure from London



Departs May 16 & September 19, 2011

Join us for a journey of discovery to the most beautiful region of Italy where pristine vineyards intermingle with silvery olive groves in a rolling landscape dotted with Cypress trees. Experience the swift French TGV outbound and overnight sleeper train with private cabin en-route home from Italy - Florence to London with just 1 train change.

INCLUDED:

- Champagne check-in at London St Pancras
- Escorted throughout
- Afternoon departure on Eurostar to Paris or Lille
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille
- TGV rail travel to Nice
- 7 nights in Marina di Pietrasanta, Italy
- 7 buffet breakfasts & 7 dinners with wine & water

- PLUS Free tea/coffee daily, PLUS nightly Free bar
- Included excursions take in Lucca, Pisa Florence, Portovenere (pictured) & San Gimignano
- Travel home on overnight train, Florence to Paris, in 2-berth cabin, then Eurostar to London
- All transfers abroad

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Rome & Sorrento

Escorted Holiday by Rail - overnight sleeper train to Rome



Departs October 3, 2011

Join us for a holiday which takes in the classic city of Rome, the legendary resort of Sorrento and Italy's Amalfi coast. Our journey to Italy combines the swift Eurostar, London to Paris, then the overnight train to Rome, in a private 2 berth cabin. With an afternoon departure from London and just 1 train change, we'll be in central Rome the next morning, ready to enjoy the best of Italy.

INCLUDED:

- Champagne check-in at London St Pancras
- Escorted throughout
- Afternoon departure on Eurostar to Paris
- Overnight sleeper train to and from Rome
- 4 nights B&B at a 3-star hotel in Rome
- 5 nights half-board at a 4-star hotel in Sorrento

- Full day guided classic tour of Rome, Guided tour of the Amalfi Coast
- Optional visits to Capri and Pompeii
- Return rail travel to London
- All transfers abroad

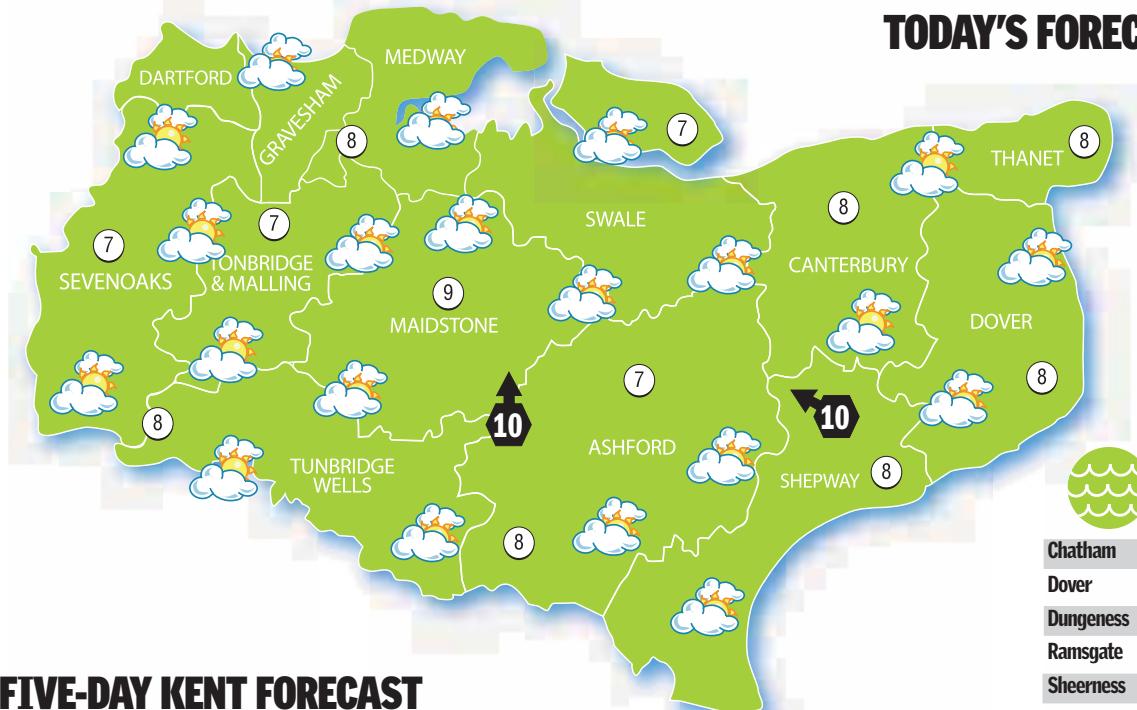
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TODAY'S FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

| | | | |
|------------|------|------------|------|
| Amsterdam | 7°C | Madrid | 9°C |
| Athens | 15°C | New York | 3°C |
| Barcelona | 11°C | Paris | 8°C |
| Beijing | -3°C | Rome | 14°C |
| Bombay | 29°C | Sydney | 23°C |
| Cape Town | 33°C | Tenerife | 21°C |
| Cardiff | 6°C | Tokyo | 5°C |
| Gibraltar | 15°C | Vancouver | 7°C |
| Hong Kong | 10°C | Warsaw | -7°C |
| Las Palmas | 18°C | Wellington | 18°C |

KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

| | | | | |
|------------|----------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| Chatham | Saturday | 1:28pm 6.5m | Sunday | 2:10pm 6.5m |
| Dover | Saturday | 11:32am 6.9m | Sunday | 12:18pm 6.9m |
| Dungeness | Saturday | 11:36am 8.0m | Sunday | 12:17pm 8.2m |
| Ramsgate | Saturday | 12:02pm 5.3m | Sunday | 12:48pm 5.3m |
| Sheerness | Saturday | 1:18pm 6.1m | Sunday | 2:00pm 6.2m |
| Whitstable | Saturday | 1:22pm 5.5m | Sunday | 2:07pm 5.5m |



SUNSET 5:11pm



MOONSET 5:48am

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

| | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon |
|---------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Ashford | 7°C | 10°C | 8°C | 6°C | 5°C |
| Canterbury | 7°C | 8°C | 7°C | 5°C | 5°C |
| Chatham | 7°C | 8°C | 7°C | 5°C | 5°C |
| Dartford | 7°C | 9°C | 8°C | 6°C | 6°C |
| Dover | 6°C | 8°C | 7°C | 4°C | 5°C |
| Faversham | 7°C | 8°C | 7°C | 5°C | 5°C |
| Maidstone | 7°C | 9°C | 8°C | 6°C | 6°C |
| Folkestone | 6°C | 8°C | 7°C | 4°C | 5°C |
| Ramsgate | 7°C | 8°C | 7°C | 5°C | 5°C |
| Gillingham | 7°C | 8°C | 7°C | 5°C | 5°C |
| Rochester | 7°C | 8°C | 7°C | 5°C | 5°C |
| Gravesend | 7°C | 9°C | 8°C | 6°C | 6°C |
| Sevenoaks | 6°C | 8°C | 6°C | 4°C | 4°C |
| Sittingbourne | 7°C | 8°C | 7°C | 5°C | 5°C |
| Tonbridge | 7°C | 8°C | 9°C | 6°C | 5°C |
| Tun Wells | 7°C | 8°C | 9°C | 6°C | 5°C |

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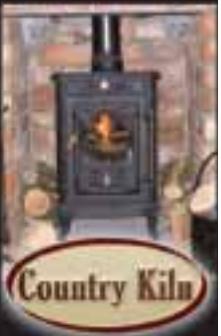
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CARING young 62 petite blonde, seeks someone to share doing things with, theatre, dancing and perhaps nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359761**

CARING young 62 petite blonde, seeks someone to share doing things with, theatre, dancing and perhaps nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359761**

57YR old voluptuous lady, works, divorced, likes beach, meals out, theatre, travel, weekends away, seeks white male, 56-61 with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359685**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359589**

SLIM dark hair/eyed female who works far too hard, WLTM male for rights in/out and to make life more interesting. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359189**

SEPARATED 40's female looking to put some fun back into her life, seeks outgoing male to get started with. Any race/age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359187**

YOUNG looking 37, curly, attractive, looking for wild at heart man to enjoy fun times and cosy nights in. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359185**

MARY 62, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes nights in/out, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359467**

AFFABLE attractive black female, 37, slim, enjoys music, reading, theatre nature. WLTM genuine gent, 37-49 to share laughter and life, caring, N/S who lives near London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 333815**

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 334613**

49YR old female, seeks honest male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358297**

OUTGOING sincere 5ft 6ins lady WLTM tall, caring interesting male 70's to share life's adventure. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357959**

SINGLE mum, 39, likes most things, seeks male with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 349999**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359059**

ATTRACTIVE caring, interesting black lady seeks educated, genuine, white male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358989**

FUN loving student, 21yrs, seeks male of any age for fun in London, can travel and accommodate, I love a risk and having fun! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 356981**

BUBBLY outgoing nurse, (I love my uniform), fancy meeting up North London for some fun loving fun! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 356983**

CARING genuine single mum seeks male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358719**

42YR old female, likes music, dancing, writing, astrology, cats, seeks male with GSOH and similar age. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 351577**

CAROLE petite, slim, long blonde hair, green eyes, attractive, likes sports, nights out, pubs, meals out, cinema, theatre, movie, seeks genuine, honest male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 337515**

ATTRACTIVE outgoing 64y old lady, seeks genuine, retired, solvent, professional male for friendship. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 351929**

ATTRACTIVE slim single mum, 44, seeks similar tall male, 40-50, caring, loving and loyal, are you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 334393**

LATE 40's female, likes most things, animals, walks, cinema, seeks male 45-59 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 348545**

SEALED with a kiss. 37y old single mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, curly, likes sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. **Folkestone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 355543**

TINKERBELLE seeks Peter Pan, I'm 36, 5ft 3ins, size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358721**

CUDDLY curly size 14 plus female looking for very assertive gent, 59-65 for daytime adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358729**

BEDFORDSHIRE female, 39, HIV positive, likes cinema, music, travel, nights in, wine bars, seeks decent, white, professional male, under 45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358579**

5FT 2ins female, dark hair, medium build, late 40's, GSOH, likes cinema, walks, family life, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 339581**

COME live with me. Medic, petite, stunning, long hair, seeks very rich, tactile, generous gent. I will care for you forever. **Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 364264**

PETER genuine, sincere, easygoing, attractive, likes meals out, nights in, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358069**

ADORABLE beauty, curly, caring, down to earth, trained lawyer, seeks good man for friendship, companionship, maybe more. **London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 351337**

ANNA 62, seeks guy, 59-65 with an interest in the simple things in life for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 346707**

JANET 52, kind, caring, honest, loving, likes cinema, nights in, meals out seeks similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 347217**

JACKIE homely, 52, seeks genuine, homely male, 50-65 for caring, sharing and spoiling. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 350005**

SOUTH London lady, full figure with long hair, curves in all the right places. WLTM male of any age for fun, friendship and more! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 350005**

FUN loving student, 21yrs, seeks male of any age for fun in London, can travel and accommodate, I love a risk and having fun! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 356981**

LADY seeks N/S, clean shave to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slim, curvy lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinklies. **Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 349757**

FOREIGN beauty, long, long hair, 20's, seeks older male who can spoil someone like me. **London area. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 356967**

BARBARA divorced, active, 5ft 7ins, dark hair/eyes, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, holidays, seeks intelligent male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 346745**

TONY 51, hardworking, GSOH, young at heart, seeks female, 35-50 for fun, excitement and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359857**

WORLD traveller, fit, young minded female, enjoys life, seeks special interesting male, 60's for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 349053**

41YR old lady, young at heart, blue eyes, long dark hair, seeks fun loving guy with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 346537**

BEAUTIFUL slim, babe, 22, seeks older, generous guy 65 plus who knows how to pamper. **London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 348545**

KAREN 34, sexy leggy brunette who knows there's more to life than just work! WLTM confident professional male for times off meets in London and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 342525**

NESSA 58, GSOH, caring, happy, loving, seeks honest, reliable male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 346595**

PATRICIA outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 347215**

FEMALE 29, HIV, likes cinema, music, countryside, cosy nights in, seeks good male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357327**

DEREK 59, 5ft 7ins, medium build, N/S, likes nights in/out, pubs, walks, holidays, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358303**

BEAUTIFUL slim, black female, HIV positive, good qualities, seeks genuine, kind, white male, 30-47 to share good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359315**

KEV 48, good looking, 6ft 2ins, dark hair, brown eyes, caring, loving, loyal, romantic, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 356493**

MALE 50, medium build, 5ft 8ins, laidback, friendly, genuine, likes most things, seeks female to share life with, 30-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358046**

MY secretary said don't mention the distant travel, restaurants and hotels. Just say you are kind, successful, seeking a younger Chinese/Far East lady, up to age of 40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358999**

LOVING genuine male, 60's, young at heart, honest, likes cooking, theatre, seeks cuddly fair lady, 55-70 for fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358943**

RICHARD 46, dark hair, 5ft 6ins, medium build, caring, loving, likes walks, cinema, meals out, dvds, music, seeks female, 38-57 for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359801**

PROFESSIONAL male, 40's, 6ft 3ins, seeks mature, slim, vivacious female sought by successful, tall, young 5ft 6in old guy to pamper and spoil. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359763**

47YR old male, easygoing, GSOH, likes nights out, meals, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357533**

58YR old male, disabled, seeks new friends. New to area, knows no one. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359733**

LIKE the Abba song, Take a chance on me. Young at heart widower, 5ft 9ins, 64, medium build, seeks sophisticated lady for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359501**

RAMSGATE male, 5ft 5ins, young at heart, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim-medium build, attractive soul mate for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 349342**

RICHARD 46, likes holidays, theatre, historic buildings, cinema, music, seeks female, 37-57 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 355867**



FEMININE lady who knows how to treat her man seeks strong minded male to care for, any area London/Surrey/Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 356985**

YOUNG male, trainee masseuse, seeks mature, adventurous lady for refreshing times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359459**

ATTRACTIVE genuine, romantic, reliable single dad of 1, seeks slim attractive female, 25-45 to share good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359381**

LOVING male, 40, seeks similar lady, 30-65 with any leather seated car or motorbike for rides out and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358205**

BLACK guy, GSOH seeks white lady for no strings fun times. **Walthamstow. Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357169**

WILLIAM young 65, fit, active N/S, non drinker, seeks Christian female who enjoys the simple things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 350833**

32YR old professional male, seeks female for friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 383644**

YOUNG 40yr old dark haired male well built, romantic, seeks female for everlasting love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358559**

MALCOLM 55 single and living in Ragsdale, seeking someone to have some fun with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358899**

KEV professional attractive 48y old male, slim and fit, GSOH, loyal, seeks slim female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358879**

CHEERFUL chap, wrong side of 60, seeks fun with a warm bloomed lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 359131**

HONEST male, 34, confident, 6ft, shaved head, athletic, seeks slim, attractive, honest female for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357489**

DAVID 61, proud of it, fanciable, poetic, likes participation, disciplined, adventurous. **Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357791**

TONY 52, black, N/S, seeks local friend for love, white female, 40-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357001**

STOCKY male, green eyes, GSOH, likes nights in/out, gym, cinema, meals, seeks large lady size 24 plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357971**

STEVE 6ft 2ins, well built, dark hair, blue eyes, likes the outdoor life, good food/wine, seeks similar honest fun female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358063**

LOVING genuine male, 48, full of life and love, seeks slim-medium build female/soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358023**

TALL male, GSOH, friendly, cheerful, fun, reliable, trustworthy, late 50's, seeks young female, up to 44 to support and treasure. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 376438**



ANDREW 59, seeks similar aged female for friendship and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357261**

SEVENOAKS 48y old male, 5ft 8ins, brown hair, medium build, looking for someone sincere, 30-45 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 371016**

44YR old guy 5ft 10ins, medium build, blue eyes, likes music, concert, cinema, meals out, seek female for romance leading to LTF. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357679**

WILLIAM young 65, fit, active N/S, non drinker, seeks Christian female who enjoys the simple things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 350833**

32YR old professional male, seeks female for friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 383644**

YOUNG 40yr old dark haired male well built, romantic, seeks female for everlasting love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357017**

TONY 52, black, N/S, seeks local friend for love, white female, 40-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357001**

CHRIS good looking, young 45y old male, GSOH, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, easygoing, smart, loving, up for good times, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 357223**

YOUNG good looking, funny, intelligent, smart, handsome male seeks mature woman for fun times. Must be wild and full of adventure. **London/Herts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 355899**

YOUNG male, 33, new to area seeks mature, adventurous female friend for fun evenings in. **London Tel No: 0906 515 7112** **Box No: 358063**

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100ft Rear Garden
Garage With Pit

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Diploma chance with hall revamp

TEENAGERS are being invited to earn a qualification by taking part in a project to revamp part of an historic seaside building in Herne Bay.

Canterbury College is offering places to 16 to 18-year-olds on a three-month, full-time training course that will involve them carrying out work in the foyer of the King's Hall.

Those who complete the work will earn a BTEC introductory diploma in construction.

A college spokesman said: "Teenagers who are not currently in employment, education or training and want to get involved in the project will have to complete an introductory two-day programme and provide references.

"While current construction students at the college will also be involved in the building work, design students will come up with concepts for the interior including wallpaper

and fabric for the chairs. When the area is finished it will be used by art students to showcase their work, and by the music department to stage performances."

The college was asked to help with the project by the Herne Bay Conservation Trust, which received a £50,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund after winning the People's Millions vote on Meridian television last November.

The King's Hall, which overlooks the sea on Beacon Hill, was originally named King Edward VII Memorial Hall when it was opened in July, 1913.

It is hoped the renovation work will be completed by August so the new venue can open in time for the Herne Bay Festival.

Contact Paula Matthews on 01227 811247 or email your CV to p.matthews@canterburycollege.ac.uk.

Chancellor Rhodes back to her roots

FASHION designer Zandra Rhodes will give a free public lecture at the University for the Creative Arts' Rochester campus next month.

Chatham-born Rhodes graduated from the campus – then known as the Medway College of Design – in 1961 and has gone on to dress some of the world's most famous people, including Princess Diana, Freddie Mercury and Kylie Minogue.

She was installed as the university's first ever chancellor in May last year, and will visit Rochester on Thursday, March 17.

Rhodes said: "My years at Medway were formative and shaped me into what I am today. The caring, dedicated staff guided and nurtured me and I learned the basics that have carried me through the rest of my life and career."

The lecture will start at 6pm and be followed by a free drinks reception.

Email events@ucreative.ac.uk or call 01252 892682 to book a place.



TICKLED PINK: Zandra Rhodes

Investing in six of the best shows campus confidence

THE University of Greenwich is investing in its Medway campus by hiring six new lecturers with specialist skills in engineering and science.

The posts are currently being advertised with a particular focus on sports and biomedical science.

Professor Neil Garrod, deputy vice-chancellor for resources, said: "Students thinking of applying to study at Medway will be

encouraged to know the university is continuing to invest in their education.

These new appointments will boost further the amount of personal attention students receive, as well as allowing us to expand successful programmes and support development in new areas.

"It is a measure of our past success as well as our confidence in, and commitment to, the future."



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Closing date: 23 February 2011

Applicants may be required to attend an Assessment Day on Wednesday 2nd March and may also be required to attend Interview on Tuesday 8th March.

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Sheps' chefs enjoy a slice of the action

BRITAIN'S oldest brewer Shepherd Neame hosted a skills development day for chefs working at its pubs in Kent.

The Faversham-based firm, which was founded in 1698, invited 11 kitchen leaders to learn from head development chef Simon Howlett before taking part in a Ready Steady Cook-style competition.

Development manager Graeme Endacott said: "The skills day, which we hope to stage on a regular basis, was a very good experience and the chefs came away enthused. It was a chance for them to meet and share best practice, and also for them to introduce new meat cuts which consumers in the UK may not have seen before.

"Customers can expect to try something special at many of Shepherd Neame's pubs and restaurants in the near future."

The learning day was held at food supplier Brakes in Ashford and supported by Andrew Rook, of Kent butchers chain JC Rook & Son, and Hugh Judd, of the English Beef and Lamb Executive.

Mr Howlett taught the chefs new meat cuts that were popular in the USA and South America but largely unknown in Britain.

He said: "I demonstrated the flat-iron steak, the club steak and picahna steak cuts.

"The flat-iron was developed in the US and is extremely tender as it comes from the chuck – part of the shoulder – in three thin cuts. The picahna is highly prized in beef-producing nations such as Brazil. It comes from the rump and is also thin cut; while the club steak is a fore rib cut, popular throughout America and continental Europe.

"The chefs will be looking at these new meat cuts with a view to putting them on their spring menus."



CUTTING EDGE: Head chef Simon Howlett

Apprentice's Brady backs our campaign

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

TOP businesswoman Karren Brady has voiced her support for the Keep Kent Working campaign.

The vice-chairman of West Ham United and star of the popular BBC TV show *The Apprentice* is one of a growing number of people to have lent their backing to the initiative, which aims to generate jobs and develop the county's talent for the future.

Brady spoke to Archant KOS Media after attending a summit entitled Building Business – Economic Growth through Apprenticeships, hosted by the national training provider City & Guilds.

She said of the Keep Kent Working campaign: "I think anything that promotes people getting into work, and particularly young people, is a good thing."

"The most important thing for businesses that are looking to grow and build a future for themselves is that they have employees around them who are fully skilled in the jobs they are required to perform.

"It's all about firms thinking carefully about what they need to succeed tomorrow as well as today."

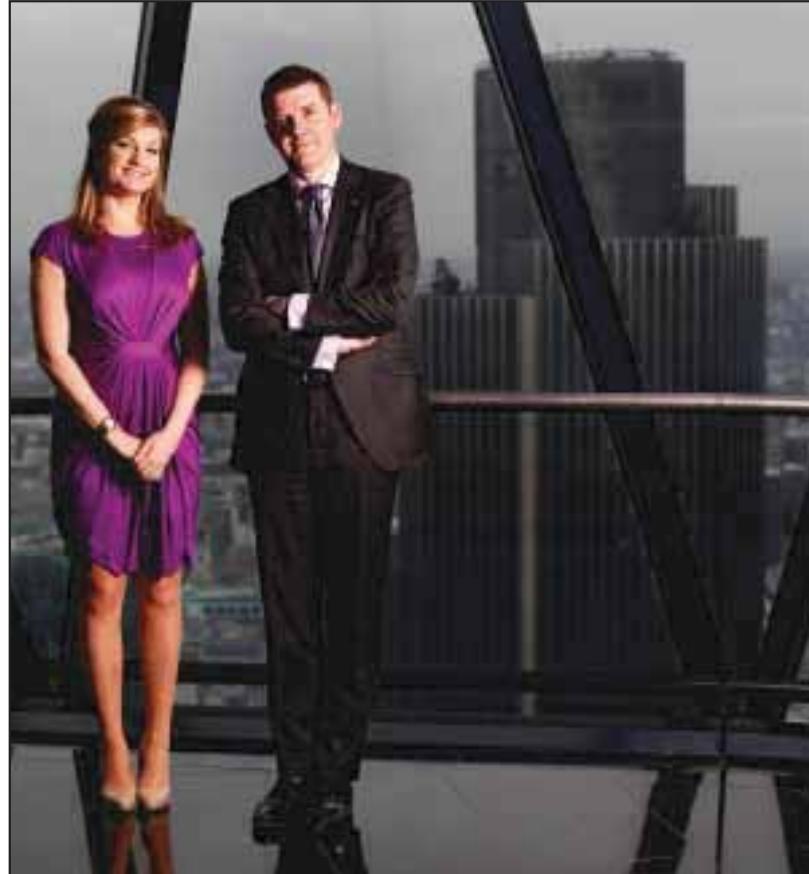
According to City & Guilds, almost 90 per cent of employers surveyed in the South East said they viewed apprentices as key to the future success of their business over the next two years.

However, just under 80 per cent said they had experienced barriers in hiring apprentices including a lack of relevant training schemes, an abundance of red tape, and the supposed risk involved with taking on young workers during the downturn.

"Lots of organisations want to bring apprentices in and offer them the chance to learn new skills," said Brady, who is the wife of ex-footballer and current Burton Albion manager Paul Peschisolido.

"Equally, there are lots of young people out there who want these new roles and are applying. However, there's a real barrier in terms of the red tape involved and the issue of knowing where to go and how to get on an apprenticeship.

"There's a lot of feeling that not enough is



ABOVE THE FRAY: Karren Brady with City & Guilds chief executive Chris Jones in the City of London

WHAT is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working?

Is it running an apprenticeship scheme to attract young workers? Are its employees being sent on training courses to aid their personal development? Or is it funding a university scholarship to help find the businessmen and women of the future?

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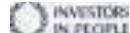
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Flexible and enthusiastic individual able to work with our current Office Manager to support our small but growing team of professional teachers covering Britain and Ireland. Requires efficiency and skill to develop the office management; sympathetic telephone manner with enquirers and energetic promotional skills with partners such as doctors, therapists, yoga teachers, business and the media.

A varied and challenging position, but low- stress as there are, at present, no staff to manage!

REQUIRES experience of Microsoft Office, Access and Outlook, plus lively practical knowledge of use of the most up to date computer programs.

APPLICATIONS WITH C.V. TO: Colin & Sue Beckley, Directors,
The Meditation Trust, 51 Station Road, Birchington, CT7 9DJ

FOR INFO PACK ABOUT TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION COURSES CALL 01843 841010

Senior & General Appointments

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HIGH VIEW OAST CARE HOME

Poulton Lane, Ash, Nr Sandwich, CT3 2HN

01304 813333

We have a vacancy for a full-time
REGISTERED NURSE

High View is a friendly village care home
Please phone **Sheelagh Sandford** for an
informal chat or interview

DATA ENTRY CLERKS

needed in our Clients Offices in **CANTERBURY / MAIDSTONE / DOVER** to enter data onto a database.

Data Entry Skills required. Will also be answering calls from businesses / companies and checking emails.
We are an Data Processing Company with Offices throughout the UK.

£250 Per Week Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm.
Immediate Start.

To Apply please email your CV to dataworks@job4u.com or Text
your name & number to our Office Mobile 07951 479238.



DELIVERY DRIVER

Tunbridge Wells

£5.93 per hour + bonus

We are Kent's largest independent motor factor with 7 branches across the South East and over 25 years experience of supplying car parts to garages and workshops.

Our recently opened Tunbridge Wells Branch is looking to recruit a delivery driver who is customer orientated, friendly, reliable, trustworthy and enthusiastic. You will need a full driving license with no more than 3 points and be able to work alternate Saturdays.

To apply please email your CV to humanresources@scmf.co.uk or visit our website www.scmf.co.uk alternatively you can call Peta Budd or Julia Hall on 0208 308 6812/6813

Closing date: Wednesday 23rd February 2011



FITNESS ADVISOR

(Full Time / Part Time) Kent (Ashford)

MEMBERSHIP ADVISOR

(Full time) Kent (Folkestone)

MEMBERSHIP ADVISOR

(Full Time / Part Time) Kent (Ashford)

PART TIME BEAUTY THERAPISTS

Kent (Ashford)

PART TIME CAFE BAR ASSISTANT

Kent (Ashford)

PART TIME MALE DOMESTIC

(8 hours per week) Kent (Folkestone)

FITNESS ADVISOR

(Casual) Kent (Folkestone)

As the largest independently owned health club operator in the UK, Bannatyne's offers state of the art facilities in over 60 convenient locations to over 180,000 members.

Please call Mike for further information on 01303 270888. Please apply via our website www.bannatyne.co.uk

The Old Buttermarket
Require an experienced
Kitchen Manager
and **Chef** for busy pub
located in the centre on
Canterbury. Salary TBA.
Please contact **Lindsey** on
01227 462170 for more
information

**STAFF
REQUIRED**
for small home in
Lordswood,
Chatham, to work
the following shifts
4pm-8am nights
3 nights first week
and 4 nights
second week
Please ring for an
information pack on
01634 579505

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Register your details
and we'll email you
daily with new jobs
that match your
selected criteria

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job in the County

POWERED BY
KOS MEDIA



Business Development Manager

Currently seeking dynamic and organised sales professionals to develop and secure new business whilst generating sales opportunities in line with Company strategy. Industry experience / knowledge of the uPVC window and building materials sector is highly advantageous. Competitive salary, Company car, laptop and mobile phone will be provided.

Please forward your CV and covering letter to
recruitment@eurocell.co.uk FAO Karen Freeman

Assistant Manager

Required For Residential Care Home in Folkestone

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have minimum NVQ Level 3 qualification, and experience in caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call **Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager)** on **01303 254019** for further details or email CV to **cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk**

Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

Loring Hall Oakfields

We look after people with Learning Difficulties and who may have challenging behaviours. We are currently recruiting for the following

- **Support Workers**
- **Waking Night Staff**

If you have a passion for the role, call Colin Miller now! CRB checks necessary

Loring Hall, 8 Water Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5ES
Tel: 020 8302 9302 Email: colin@oakfields.net



The future of local media

Be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

Media Sales Executive

Field Based

Full Time permanent

Tunbridge Wells and West Kent

KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales. We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response. Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
Apple Barn
Hythe Road
Smeeth
Ashford
Kent TN25 6SS
Or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

The Secret Jungle Project, Margate



The Secret Jungle is an innovative new project based at Northdown Park, Margate. It is intended to offer an outdoor play space designed around the needs and wishes of disabled children of all ages, but where non-disabled children can also play. The Children's Society have worked closely with local partners including parents of disabled children to create a facility to meet their needs within the community and to develop inclusive play.

Part-time Administrator

£8,245.49 - £9,392 pa

Ref: S02009/KOS

You'll provide efficient and well-ordered administrative services to The Secret Jungle Project. You'll be educated to GCSE standard or equivalent and be an experienced administrator with good interpersonal skills. A sound knowledge of MS Office is essential. The post requires occasional unsocial hours including weekends and some travel to attend meetings. Hours of work will be 16 per week.

Youth Project Leader

£7,105.62 - £8,094.49 pa

Ref: S02010/KOS

Working in The Secret Jungle, you'll set-up and run play activities for disabled children and young people. The sessions will include developing inclusive play opportunities for the local community. Educated to GCSE standard or equivalent, you'll have previous experience working with disabled children or young people and of assisting in planning creative or leisure activities. Hours of work will be 12 per week, to include regular weekend work.



A better childhood. For every child.

Sessional Youth Project Workers

£8.30 - £9.46 per hour

Ref: S02011/KOS

You'll assist in running activity groups for disabled children and support disabled children in taking part in inclusive play sessions. Previous experience of working with children or young people is essential. Hours will be mainly school holidays, after school and weekends on an as and when required basis.

For further information or an informal discussion on the above roles, contact Ivan O'Reilly/Joanna Stirland on 01227 741748. Posts supported by the Big Lottery.

As well as a strong commitment to your development we offer generous holidays, contributory stakeholder pensions, childcare vouchers and flexible working.

To apply, please visit www.playyourpart.co.uk or call us on 0121 362 8618 quoting the relevant reference number.

Closing date for all posts: 27th February 2011.

All our recruitment documents are available in alternative formats. Please note CVs will not be accepted.

The Children's Society wants to create a society where children are valued, respected and happy. We are committed to helping disadvantaged and vulnerable young people, including children in care, or those who have run away. We give a voice to disabled children so their needs are met in ways suited to them. Through our work, young carers find time away from their responsibilities, and young refugees have a chance to rebuild their lives in new communities.

Children are at the heart of all we do, and we want to build a better childhood for every child.

Charity Registration No. 221124.



www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Sales Manager

The Sales Manager will play a lead role in developing new business and maintaining existing relationships. The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of client relationship management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, securing new revenue, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing. The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with excellent sales skills, a self starter; highly motivated and will have excellent verbal and written communication ability. You will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within media, will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media and knowledge of the Kent marketplace would be useful.

Media Sales Executives Tunbridge Wells

KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

Telephone Sales Executives x2 Ashford

You will play the key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products.

Candidates may possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships.

Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured and positive manner. You might also be looking to enter media as a career within sale and this would be an excellent starting point.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Christine Davidson, Commercial Director
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
Or by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk



TRADE SALES MANAGER

To be responsible for the running of our busy Trade Sales Office including processing orders, preparation of orders for production, collating deliveries, customer liaison and credit control. Good keyboard skills, a mature outlook to problem solving and ability to work on own initiative under pressure required.

Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

Closing date – 18th February 2011.

Please apply in writing with a CV to

Ron Twyman,
Piper Double Glazing Limited,
140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6PP
or by e-mail to ron@piperwindows.co.uk.



HMT Care is dedicated to the care of people diagnosed within the spectrum of neuro-disability, particularly HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE. We provide an holistic and person-centred approach to care and require dedicated and committed staff to work with us in Herne Bay.

We require full-time and Weekend Support Staff.

Duties will include providing support and day-to-day assistance to residents.

A competitive salary, promotion prospects, accredited specialist training, together with NVQ opportunities, is our commitment to you

Previous experience and qualifications are an advantage
Starting salary £6.48 ph plus weekend increment

To request an application form
please call Rachel on 01227 373586
weekdays between 10am and 4pm

Tel No: 01227 373586

Fax No. 01227 749115



K O S

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

KOSMEDIA

Telephone: 01303 817040

Fax: 01303 817004

Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Business

Ref: SESS09

Hourly rate: £21.44 - £25.22 (dependent on qualifications and experience)

We are looking to recruit a passionate individual to teach Level 2 Business Studies. The successful candidate will ideally hold a relevant Business qualification and either hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 23 February 2011

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants.
For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



Alzheimer's & Dementia

S U P P O R T S E R V I C E S

Registered Charity Number 1024385

Require a part-time

HELPLINE CO-ORDINATOR

For the Kent & Medway 24 Hour Dementia Helpline

Fixed term contract to 31st March 2012

Working from home 2 days per week (Thursday & Friday) 9am - 5pm

Escalation cover, evenings 5pm-9pm & every second weekend Saturday & Sunday 9am - 5pm

Take helpline calls 9am - 5pm Thursday & Friday & provide escalation (telephone support) cover to volunteers evenings and weekends

NVQ 3 in care, Adult protection & MCA advantageous

RATE OF PAY

£8.50 per hour (Thursday & Friday) 9am-5pm, 1/2 hour lunch unpaid

£7.50 paid per evening escalation 5pm-9pm (Thursday & Friday)

£30 per weekend session (Saturday & Sunday inclusive)

Escalation cover does not tie you to a specific place and is covered by mobile phone.

To request an application pack please call 01474 533990

Closing date for completed applications Wednesday 2nd March

Flexi Day Care Assistants

Required For Residential Care Home
in Folkestone

We are looking to recruit staff with relevant experience and a minimum of NVQ level 2. Experience caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call **Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager)** on **01303 254019** for further details or email CV to cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk

Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County

St Anne's Convent, Sturry, Canterbury

requires

Part-Time Day Carer

Will be subject to enhanced disclosure

Please contact:
Liz Page on **01227 711 912**

WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home.

Full training and support available.
01622 671716

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in this
section



**01303
817040**

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT (RELIEF WELFARE ASSISTANT)



28.5 hours a week (5 days)
Term time only - 39 wks per year (includes Staff Development Days)
Kent Salary Scheme 3 points 7-11 (£14,009.00 to £15,984.00 pa)

Pro rata to £9,163.70 - £10,388.87 pa

Plus an additional allowance of £6.50 per day when used in the PD Department

A friendly and adaptable person is required to work with an identified subject area for learning support. In addition, you would provide relief cover for the PD Department in the event of absence, to proactively support students with their learning and welfare needs in order to maximise their levels of achievement and independence. You will be required to undertake moving and handling training, and it would be an advantage to have an interest in, or experience of, working with physically disabled students and a good level of numeracy and literacy (Level 2 or equivalent) is essential.

To apply please submit with your application to Kay Allen, HR Manager, a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position, together with evidence of why you are suitable for the role, and how you have developed your skills in previous roles in readiness for this position.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from our HR Manager by email at k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk or by telephoning 01474 566552 ext 8081120.

Closing Date: **21st February 2011**

Interviews: **Week Commencing 28th February 2011**

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the disclosure procedure.
Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.

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Teachers Needed

Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

- ✓ Daily/ weekly/ termly supply opportunities
- ✓ Excellent rates of pay – paid weekly
- ✓ Free in-service training and CPD assessment
- ✓ Free use of resource centre
- ✓ An out-of-hours service

Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on:

0800 731 6871

or email

CAPITA



enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

(a/g)

Committed to equal opportunities



DOVER GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME APPLICATIONS INVITED

We wish to offer the following trainee placements on the Graduate Teacher Programme

Required for September 2011

History, PE and Science

We have a very successful programme of support and qualification for our GTP students which has been enhanced by the excellent links the school has with Canterbury Christchurch University.

If you are enthusiastic and hard working; if you enjoy working with young people; if you relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post, please contact the School Office, on 01304 206117, or email starham@dovergramboys.kent.sch.uk, for an application pack.

Closing date for applications is **Friday 25 February 2011**
Interviews will be held on **Friday 4th March 2011**



Marlowe Academy

Stirling way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6NB

www.marloweacademy.co.uk

Graduate Teacher Training Programme

Starting 1st July 2011 in the following subject areas:

Mathematics, English and Science

Salary: £15,817

We offer an exciting opportunity to work in Kent's first Academy where we continue to challenge traditional approaches and to drive up standards. Our students are offered innovative and challenging learning experiences. As part of your training package you would be supported by experienced and enthusiastic staff. Candidates must have a degree in a related subject, have left university for at least a year before commencing training, and have some experience of working with children.

Interested?

Then download further information and an application form from our website or contact the Academy. We look forward to hearing from you.

The closing date is: Monday 28th February 2011

Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome.
Please contact Marion Wigington, HR Manager, on 01843 598550 or email marionwigington@marloweacademy.co.uk

The Marlowe Academy is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicants will have to undertake Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB.

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Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County



St. Lawrence College

CALLING ALL NURSES

Are you thinking about returning to work?

Do you have up to date clinical skills?

Then talk to us as we now have a vacancy in our professional Medical Care Team based here at the College.

St Lawrence College is a co- educational Independent School based in heart of Ramsgate and set within 40 acres of Grounds.

We require a trained Nurse with experience of minor injuries and ideally some immunization / pastoral care / counselling skills & health promotion, to work part time in our School's established medical centre. You will be working with Children from the ages of 3 to 18 years of age.

The hours of work are: 15 per week worked on Mondays, Tuesday & Thursdays 15.30 – 20.30 hours & every third Sunday for on call duties. This is a Term Time position only working for 34 weeks of the year and would ideally suit someone local to the School.

St Lawrence College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all members of staff & volunteers to share this commitment. Appointments are subject to an enhanced CRB Clearance and satisfactory references being obtained.

We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity and welcome applicants from all groups and communities.

Closing date for applications: 18th February 2011

Please send your completed application and covering letter together with your current salary level to:

The Human Resources Manager, St Lawrence College College Road, Ramsgate, Kent. CT11 7AE

Or apply at: vacancies@slcuk.com

www.slc-uk.com

To advertise in this section



01303 817040



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

HEAD OF BUSINESS RELATIONS

Salary Scale: Basic salary £35k. Target achievement £40k and additional incentive payments up to £10k for 37 hours per week, all year

The college is looking to recruit a Head of Business Relations to manage a portfolio of existing customers and attract new customers through excellent customer service, sales and effective account management in line with the College business targets and service level agreements.

Job reference: HBR001

PROGRAMME LEADER IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Salary Scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week, all year

The college is looking to recruit a Programme Leader in Health and Social Care to ensure a well-organised high quality course or study programme that effectively meets the needs of the students.

The main duties of this role include teaching, tutorial work, curriculum development and planning and to lead a team of staff including coordinating the delivery of courses within the Health and Social Care programme area.

Job reference: PLH&S001

Closing date: 16 February 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



"Raising Aspirations, Developing Skills, Delivering Quality"

Thanet College recruits 'The Apprentice'

FIXED TERM FOR 36 WEEKS

Salary Scale: £95 per week for 37 hours per week

Thanet College is delighted to offer opportunities to "earn as you learn".

The Business Development Division is recruiting two Apprentices to work and train at the fantastic new Manston Business Centre alongside experienced staff.

Business Administration Apprentice

The successful applicant will offer administrative support whilst completing on the job training and the following qualifications: NVQ in Business Administration, Technical Certificate and Key Skills in Literacy and Numeracy.

The successful applicant will welcome and host customers to the Business Centre whilst completing on the job training and the following qualifications: NVQ in Customer Service, Technical Certificate and Key Skills in Literacy and Numeracy.

If you have a positive approach, good organisational and communication skills and would like to be considered for either of these opportunities:

Apply now!

Closing date: 23 February 2011

Applicants may be required to attend an Assessment Day on Wednesday 2nd March and may also be required to attend Interview on Tuesday 8th March.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: APR001

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination





RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

BUSINESS PROGRAMME MANAGER

Salary Scale: £33,917 per annum for 37 hours per week, all year

Located at our fantastic new Manston Business Centre we are looking to recruit a Business Programme Manager to be responsible for managing programmes within the business development division and to promote very high standards in a positive and supportive culture that aspires to be outstanding.

Closing date: Wednesday 23rd February 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'.

Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: BPM001

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

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and learn more about our unique loyalty scheme.

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www.education-sense.com



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Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

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The smart way to find a job in the County

POWERED BY
KOS MEDIA

Tele-Sales Consultant Educational Travel

Churchill House Summer Centres is an expanding business running English Language courses for young international students at residential centres throughout the UK. We need a non-group sales consultant at our Head Office in Ramsgate.

Your customers are agents and parents world wide. You need patience to explain our range of products, subtle negotiating skills to agree a best choice and a passion to win business to close the deal. You have a proven record of telesales success in a similar business (retail travel agency, tour operator), a high level of self-motivation and the capability to build lasting relationships based on trust and integrity.

This is a permanent position with a generous remuneration package tailored to attract the best. Full CV & current salary to: Greg Patton, Churchill House, Spencer Square, Ramsgate, CT11 9EQ greg@churchillhouse.co.uk

A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online



JobsforKent.co.uk

Accountancy

Book-keeper/Account Administrator

Marden
Salary Competitive salary
To apply/more information:
Kindergarten
nicky.peckham@thekindergartens.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Lettings Administrator

Sittingbourne
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Family Homes
sunil.popat@virgin.net
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Part Time Medical Receptionist

Sevenoaks
Salary negotiable
To apply/more information:
Town Medical Centre
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales Co-ordinator

Hythe
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
H.Wooding.Ltd@btconnect.com
jolson@hwooding.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Trade Sales Manager

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Piper Windows
piper@piperwindows.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary 14k

To apply/more information:

Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Aug10

Marketing, Sales and Communication

Canterbury
Salary 14k (starting salary)
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 2010-02

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Parish Clerk

Wye
Salary NJC pay rates
PARISH CLERK Part-time (18 hrs per week) Flexible, home-based - NJC pay rates This post provides a major opportunity for a forward-looking and committed person to serve the Parish Council at a critical time in Wye's history and to contribute to the successful development of the Council and village alike. The Clerk's work is varied and involves acting on the Council's behalf as its executive and point of contact for the public and all external organisations, as well as servicing its monthly evening meetings and other occasional

events. The starting date for the successful candidate is negotiable and will overlap with the present Clerk, who will take up the post of Responsible Financial Officer after a three-month hand-over period. The new Clerk will be given support to work for the CiLCA qualification. Please visit the Parish Council's website www.wyeparish.info for a job description, person specification and application details. Closing date for the receipt of applications is 25th February 2011. Interviews will take place on the evening of Tuesday March 15th 2011. Previous applications will automatically be reconsidered.

To apply/more information:
WYE with HINCHILL PARISH COUNCIL
wye.parishclerk@btinternet.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Temporary Administrator

Maidstone outskirts
Salary £7 per hour
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1720

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Business

Medway
Salary £21.44 - £25.22
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: SESS09

Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

Temporary Administrator
Maidstone outskirts
Salary £7 per hour

To apply/more information:

Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1720

Fencing Installers

South East Area
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Pembury Group
applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Belgian Cafe
cultura@hotmail.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Temporary Paid Lecturer in Business

Medway
Salary £21.44 - £25.22
To apply/more information:
Old Buttermarket
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chefs and Commis Chefs

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Belgian Cafe
cultura@hotmail.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Cover Supervisors

All over Kent
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
London Teaching Pool Ltd
kentteam@ltp.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teachers

All Kent
Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:

London Teaching Pool Ltd
kentteam@ltp.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Foster Carers

All Kent
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Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

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monique@
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foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

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Tunbridge wells
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Quoting Job Ref: kos

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Quoting Job Ref: kos

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Quoting Job Ref: kos

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Quoting Job Ref: kos

House Guidance & Care Manager

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folkestoneacademy.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Operations Manager

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Psychological Therapist

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Deputy Manager

New Romney
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Sandbanks Care Home
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Psychological Therapist

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Fiat lifts the roof off 500C

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Fiat 500C Abarth

SOMETIMES it takes a clever piece of technology or simply a particular engine to make you look at a car in a different light.

In the case of Fiat's 500, the Italian firm's Twinair two-cylinder petrol engine is a revelation. Delivering low emissions and fuel consumption with the energy and character of its pioneering predecessor, the two-pot 500 is a joy to drive.

At the other end of the performance spectrum is the 500C Abarth. Fans of the 500 will instantly be familiar with the Abarth's go-faster connotations. In a nutshell, the tuning sub-brand offers affordable sporting thrills thanks to a range of well judged upgrades – not a million miles from Abarth's roots.

The 500 Abarth isn't an entirely new concept. You've been able to buy such a car for some time. What you haven't been able until recently is buy one in convertible form. As if a 140 horsepower 500 wasn't decent enough, Fiat have cut the roof off.

Strictly speaking, the 500C boasts a roll back roof, as the car retains the door frame structure of its tin-top relative. This fabric cover can be electrically wound back the car's full length, includes a heated glass screen and offers near-hatchback levels of refinement when in place.

Feisty

Somehow, even though a hatchback Abarth exists, it's hard not to be charmed by the 500C model and its enhanced features. Certainly, with the roof down, it's easier to hear the car's feisty engine thanks in part to a pair of oversize exhaust pipes.

Those pipes join a modest but purposeful bodykit, chunky steering wheel, supportive sports seats, stylish alloy wheels and, crucially, retuned suspension settings.

Ah yes, the main reason for buying the 500C Abarth is its performance potential. And while it won't worry the genuine hot hatchbacks occupying higher price points, the usable and accessible nature of this 500's performance is not to be sneezed at.

The 1.4-litre turbo petrol motor might 'only' produce 140 horsepower, but in a car this size that's plenty. This rev-happy engine snarls its way around the rev counter, emitting a buzzy, impatient sound that's highly addictive.

In an unusual move, the 500C Abarth comes with a semi-auto gearbox complete with steering wheel paddleshifters. It's unusual for two reasons: such technology isn't cheap yet Fiat has managed to position the car competitively, plus this technology always divides opinion.

Luddites will bemoan the lack of a clutch pedal – the 500's gearbox is essentially a manual 'box with the clutch action controlled electronically. In practice, leaving the car in Auto mode does require the driver to second-guess shift points and feather the throttle accordingly. And yes, that does take practice.

However, stick the car in manual mode and you have full control over gear changes. This is by far a more rewarding experience, and it doesn't take long before you're zipping up and down the gears with those deliciously weighted paddles.

Better still is the car's Sport mode, which adds more weight to the steering and sharpens the combined responses of the engine and gearbox. Frankly, this can be

left engaged all the time; far from turning the 500C into a temperamental trackday monster, the sharper responses are welcome. Gearchanges feel crisper and there's an audible change in the 500's exhaust note, giving it a 'big car' sound.

In short, it's a hoot to drive. With no shortage of power, the 500C Abarth growls and screams its way from gear to gear, corner to corner. For a small car with sports suspension its ride is surprisingly supple, too. Grip that chunky steering wheel and, while more communication would be nice, there's no question mark over the car's ability to go where you point it.

On a basic level the 500C Abarth displays an edgy character the regular 500 lacks. Not everyone wants a bulging bodykit and a beefy exhaust, which is why so many regular 500s have found homes.

But that 'edge' is precisely what the 500 needs to appeal to a section of the buying public seeking a fun, small car with genuine talent. It's easy for car makers to bolt on go-faster bits to create the illusion of enhanced performance. Fiat has done a thorough job with this 500C – something Abarth fans can be proud of.



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| 07 07 CORSA 1.0 LIFE A/C 3DR, Flame Red, 42,500 miles | £5395 | £4995 | 08 08 ASTRA 1.4 BREEZE 5DR, Ultra Blue, 34,850 miles | £6995 | £6495 | 10 10 INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Black Sapphire, 10,180 miles | £14995 | £14475 |
| 07 57 CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 3DR, Flame Red, 49,700 miles | £6495 | £5995 | 08 08 ASTRA 1.8 SRI X PACK 5DR, Silver Lightning, 15,870 miles | £8495 | £7995 | 08 58 VECTRA 2.0 DESIGN 5DR, Ultra Blue, 20,345 miles | £7995 | £7,600 |
| 07 57 CORSA 1.2 SXI A/C 3DR, Star Silver, 9,635 miles | £6795 | £6500 | 09 59 ASTRA 1.4 SXI SPORTS TWIN TOP 2DR, Red, 16,180 miles | £8995 | £8695 | 08 57 VECTRA 2.0 DESIGN 5DR, Ultra Blue, 20,345 miles | £7995 | £7,600 |
| 08 57 CORSA 1.6 VXR 3DR, Arden Blue, 23,500 miles | £9995 | £9635 | 09 59 ASTRA 1.6 SXI SPORTS HATCH 3DR, Sovereign Silver, 8,200 miles | £14995 | £11995 | 09 59 INSIGNIA 2.0 SRI 4X4 5DR, Black Sapphire, 24,590 miles | £15495 | £14995 |
| 08 08 ASTRA 1.2 BREEZE+ 3DR, Silver Lightning, 16,900 miles | £7495 | | 10 59 ASTRA 2.0 VXR 3DR, Red, 16,560 miles | £9995 | £9600 | 08 06 MERIVA 1.4 CDTI DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 28,000 miles | £5995 | £5495 |
| 08 08 CORSA 1.3 CDTI BREEZE 3DR, Silver Lightning, 16,320 miles | £7995 | £7495 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 5,000 miles | £16995 | £15995 | 06 55 ASTRA 1.6 SXI 5DR, Moonland, 62,800 miles | £4995 | £4995 |
| 08 08 CORSA 1.3 CDTI BREEZE 3DR, Flame Red, 4,000 miles | £7295 | £6995 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 19,000 miles | £11495 | £9995 | 07 57 ASTRA 1.8 ELITE 5DR, Star Silver, 19,000 miles | £7495 | £7495 |
| 08 08 CORSA 1.3 CDTI BREEZE 3DR, Flame Red, 4,275 miles | £7495 | £7150 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 20,300 miles | £11495 | £10995 | 08 57 ASTRA 1.4 SXI 3DR, Flame Red, 30,200 miles | £7495 | £7495 |
| 08 08 CORSA 1.3 CDTI BREEZE+ 3DR, Flame Red, 4,355 miles | £7495 | £7150 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £18995 | £17995 | 09 59 INSIGNIA 2.0 SRI 4X4 5DR, Black Sapphire, 7,500 miles | £15495 | £14995 |
| 08 08 CORSA 1.3 SXI CDTI 5DR, Silver Lightning, 16,320 miles | £7495 | £7275 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 08 06 MERIVA 1.4 CDTI DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 28,000 miles | £5995 | £5495 |
| 09 59 CORSA 1.4 ACTIVE 3DR, Flame Red, 4,000 miles | £7995 | £7795 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 06 55 ASTRA 1.6 SXI 5DR, Moonland, 62,800 miles | £4995 | £4995 |
| 09 59 CORSA 1.4 ACTIVE 3DR, Star Silver, 780 miles | £7995 | £7795 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 19,000 miles | £11495 | £9995 | 07 57 ASTRA 1.8 ELITE 5DR, Star Silver, 19,000 miles | £7495 | £7495 |
| 10 59 ASTRA 1.3 CDTI ACTIVE 3DR, 7,750 miles | £9495 | £9250 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 20,300 miles | £11495 | £10995 | 08 57 ASTRA 1.4 SXI 3DR, Flame Red, 30,200 miles | £7495 | £7495 |
| 10 10 ASTRA 1.3 CDTI ACTIVE 3DR, Black Sapphire, 4,925 miles | £10495 | £10295 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 28,000 miles | £18995 | £17995 | 09 59 VECTRA 2.0 DOUBLE CAB SPORTIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £16995 | £16995 |
| 10 10 ASTRA 1.3 CDTI ACTIVE 3DR, Black Sapphire, 4,925 miles | £10495 | £10295 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ENERGY 3DR, Black Sapphire, 2,340 miles | £9995 | £9495 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ENERGY 3DR, Silver Lightning, 2,045 miles | £9995 | £9750 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ENERGY 3DR, Glacier White, 2,800 miles | £9995 | £9750 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ENERGY 5DR, Metro Blue, 2,925 miles | £9995 | £9750 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ENERGY 5DR, Beam Green, 4,740 miles | £10995 | £10495 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ENERGY 3DR, Star Silver, Del miles | £9495 | £8995 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ENERGY 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9495 | £8995 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ENERGY 3DR, Silver Lake, Del miles | £9495 | £8995 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 10 ASTRA 1.6 ENERGY 3DR, White, Del miles | £9495 | £8995 | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |
| 10 60 CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles | £9795 | | 10 10 ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 5DR, Power Blue, 4,800 miles | £15995 | £14995 | 10 10 VIVARO 1.6 DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 2,300 miles | £17995 | £17995 |



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2009 FORD FIESTA HATCH 1.4 TITANIUM 5DR AUTO 8652.44 MILES £9999

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2007 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5DR [115] [CLIMATE PACK] 4385 MILES £5799

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C-MAX

2007 FORD C-MAX PETROL ESTATE ZETEC (2007) 5-DR 1.8 DURATEC STG 4 125 PS 6665.65 MILES £7799

2008 FORD C-MAX PETROL ESTATE ZETEC (2007.5) 5-DR AUTO 2.0 DURATEC STG 4 145 PS 5413.61 MILES £6799

FUSION

2007 FORD FUSION ESTATE 1.4 ZETEC 5DR AUTO [CLIMATE] 4483 MILES £5999

2007 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCH FUSION 1.6 100PS 5134.85 MILES £6499

2008 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCH FUSION 1.6 100PS 4902 MILES £6399

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2003 FORD FUSION 1.4 TDCI 2 5DR 2300 MILES £6499

GALAXY

2003 FORD GALAXY 1.9 TD ZETEC 5DR [115 PS] 4525 MILES £6999

2002 FORD GALAXY 1.9 TD ZETEC 5DR [115 PS] 2300 MILES £3999

MONDEO

2009 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCH 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR 11672.826 MILES £12999

2007 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCH 2.0 TDCI ZETEC 5DR 5913.336 MILES £7299

2007 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCH 2.0 ZETEC 5DR 6010.316 MILES £4999

2007 FORD MONDEO PETROL HATCH EDGE 5 DR 1.6 DURATEC 125PS 7109.4 MILES £8499

2005 FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX 5DR 2000 MILES £4499

2007 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR 1556.48 MILES £7999

2004 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI 150 MILES £5499

2007 FORD MONDEO TITANIUM X (2007.5) 5-DR 1.6 100PS 125PS SH 4130.25 MILES £5499

ESTATE 2.0 DURATORQ TDCI 140PS 7998.9 MILES £9999

OTHERS

2007 MAZDA MAZDA6 HATCH 2.0 TS 5DR 5028.5 MILES £6499

2003 MAZDA PREMACY 2.0 GXE 7 SEAT 5DR 1957.75 MILES £3499

2007 NISSAN MICRA DIESEL HATCH 1.5 DCI 86 TEKNA 5DR 4 187.98 MILES £5499

2003 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 HDI STYLE 5DR 1100 MILES £2499

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2007 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 16V ACTIVE 5DR 1000 MILES £7499

2009 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 16V ACTIVE 5DR 638 MILES £7499

2002 VOLVO 40 2.0 T4 16V 5DR 1750 MILES £2499

2005 AUDI A3 2.0 TFSI SPORT 5DR 65685 MILES £7999

2005 AUDI A3 2.0 TFSI QUATTRO 5DR 40 TIP 7270 MILES £8499

2007 CITROËN XSARA PICASSO ESTATE 1.6i 16V 125 VTX 5DR 5033.94 MILES £6499

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FIRST GEAR



New, sleek C-Class is licensed to grille

A NUMBER of enhancements have been made to the Mercedes-Benz C-Class saloon and estate for the 2011 model year.

A more pronounced grille, revised bumpers front and rear plus features like LED lights bring it into the line with the appearance of the bigger E-Class.

All models now feature an aluminium bonnet which helps to reduce overall mass.

Changes on the inside include a refreshed dashboard, with smart, galvanised control buttons and the display screen integrates more neatly with the rest of the instrument panel.

Underneath the slicker skin, the engine range has been revised with improvements and efficiency gains across the range.

The 3.5-litre petrol V6 engine is also new, and combines strong outputs and impressive acceleration with a remarkable fuel economy figure of 41.5mpg combined.

The most frugal diesel unit can now deliver 64mpg combined and CO₂ figures of just 117g/km, thanks to the standard fitment of a start/stop system among other changes.

The 2011 C-Class goes on sale in March, with pricing details yet to be announced.

Fuel consumption figures for Saab 9-3 Diesel Saloon Range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 36.7 – 49.6 (7.7 – 5.7), Extra-urban 60.1 – 72.4 (4.7 – 3.9), Combined 48.7 – 62.8 (5.8 – 4.5). CO₂ emissions 153 – 119g/km.

Offer available to business users for orders received by 31.03.11. £294 monthly figure is based on a 9-3 Turbo Edition Saloon 1.9TTiD (180PS) Manual on a non-maintenance contract hire package over 36 months, 10,000 contract miles per year. Advance payment equal to 3 monthly payments is payable followed by 35 monthly payments. Excess mileage charge applies if contract mileage is exceeded. For full terms and conditions and specification please refer to the Saab Great Britain Limited Master Agreement and your local dealer. All quotations are subject to availability, status and agreement. Free metallic paint is only available in conjunction with the Saab Great Britain Limited offer and applies to selected models only. Guarantees may be required. Terms are unavailable to existing customers under specific end-user terms with Saab Great Britain Limited. Details correct at time of publication and may vary, eg if list price changes. Saab Great Britain Limited does not offer tax advice to individuals: company car drivers should consult their accountant on their tax position. Contract hire by ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Saab Contract Hire, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. On the road prices include number plates, delivery, Road Fund Licence, first registration fee and VAT. Excludes fuel and insurance. Model shown is a 9-3 Turbo Edition Saloon 1.9TTiD (180PS) Manual at £23,484.79 OTR with optional metallic paint at £536.17 and TX Design Pack at £607.66. **119g/km CO₂ emissions relates to MY11 9-3 manual Saloon engines only and excludes the 1.9TTiD (180PS) Aero model. †Exempt from first years road tax.

Lexus Lifestyle perfect for outdoor pursuits



LEXUS has fettled a special Lifestyle version of its RX full hybrid SUV for some of the rigours of winter with a package of accessories suited for those who love the great outdoors.

On the outside the new Lifestyle model comes equipped with roof rails and a rear bumper protect, plus front and rear under-run plates.

Inside there is a tough boot liner

ready to cope with muddy boots, plus a refrigerated cool box that can equally keep food and drinks warm when the temperatures plummet.

Specified individually, these features would cost up to £1,500, but brought together for the new RX 450h SE-I Lifestyle they add just £499 to the on-the-road price, which is from £48,899.

Peugeot unveils its CO₂ busting 508



AHEAD of the Paris Motor Show, Peugeot has unveiled its replacement for the 407 saloon and estate models.

The French car maker's 508 will appear in the UK early next year, and company bosses are hoping the car's new look and a greater focus on economy and low CO₂ will help attract buyers.

With one eye on the affordable premium market, the 508 also boasts high levels of refinement and a noticeable step up in terms of build quality.

With its new corporate nose design and sleek profile, both the 508 saloon and its SW load-lugger cousin continue the design theme started by the sporty RCZ coupe.

Alongside the usual array of features inside a car associated with a mid-size model – plush trim, decent audio, electric almost everything – the 508 showcases Peugeot's diesel engine stop-start

feature plus a full-blown diesel-electric hybrid powertrain.

With the combination of a 1.6-litre diesel engine and six-speed manual gearbox, the 508's 'e-HDi' system will deliver 114g/km CO₂ at launch and 109g/km later in 2011 after a series of interim improvements.

Peugeot's foray into hybrid territory should see even greater reductions, thanks to the combination of a diesel engine up front and an electric motor powering the rear wheels. With the potential of 200hp, all-wheel drive and greatly reduced emissions of 99g/km CO₂ are promised.

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The Saab 9-3 TTiD Saloon from just £294 a month* (excl. VAT).

With CO₂ emissions of just 119g/km**, you can drive away the Saab 9-3 TTiD Saloon without paying road tax[†]. You can also enjoy its class-leading 180PS twin turbo performance. Economy and exhilaration, the best of both worlds. So with cars available for March delivery and prices from just £294 a month* (excl. VAT), it seems the most efficient thing to do is to test drive one today.

Contact Canterbury Saab now for more information.

*Plus advance rental of £882 (excl. VAT).

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First Drive

by
MATT JOY**Nissan Micra**

IT MAY not appear so at first glance, but the Nissan Micra is something of an automotive dynasty.

Unlike most Japanese cars, the Micra in all its previous guises had proper longevity: the first and second generation stuck around for a decade apiece while the outgoing one is still selling well in its seventh year. It can also stake a claim for being one of the most driven cars on the planet, as its total user-friendliness made it a popular driving school steed.

Most crucially for a private buyer, it also came with the promise of bulletproof reliability.

So the new one has quite a reputation to live up to. It also has to overcome a slight problem the old one had, namely that one half of the population saw it as something of a girly car.

That explains why the new Micra looks a little more conservative in comparison. It's as neatly styled as ever, of course, although less radical than before, it shares the non-threatening look that many drivers find appealing.

Compared to the rest of the supermini crowd, the Micra stands out by virtue of its simplicity.

You can count on the same approach on the inside, too. Uncomplicated is the best way of summing it up, although that's not a euphemism for a lack of equipment. Slide behind the wheel and it won't take more than 30 seconds to locate all the switches and controls. If you really want to you could chuck the handbook out of the window and never miss it.

This approach doesn't make it dull to look at either. The heating and ventilation controls are grouped in a circular manner in the centre of the

New Micra stands out in the supermini crowd



NEXT GENERATION: Nissan Micra – new supermini, now in generation four, adds to the transformation of Nissan's image from staid and reliable to far more adventurous

dashboard, while the chunky steering wheel and clear instruments show some flair. Unlike some rivals, the Micra can also be specified with a different trim colour; and in this guise the dash of contrast brightens up the view.

Nissan has gone heavy with the technology too, even if the Micra doesn't shout about it. Just like the old car it can be specified with keyless entry and start, still a rarity in this class.

There's also a parking guidance system which will check the spaces between cars parked at the side of the road and tell you whether the car will fit or not – useful for those moments of indecisiveness. Every model comes with ESP too, which is an option costing several hundreds on

many rivals but is worth ten times as much when it does its job.

It's clever where you can't see it too, with a new platform that contributes significantly to the Micra being lighter than its predecessor, despite better crash performance. Simple ideas like the boomerang shape in the roof add strength and therefore refinement, but without a weight penalty. It's this kind of thinking that bodes well.

Fire up the Micra and the first thing you notice is the distinctive thrum of the new engine. The 1.2-litre petrol unit has three rather than four cylinders, and to these ears at least, this is a welcome change.

Less cylinders means less weight and a keenness to rev, both of which help in a city car, but despite the size it has 79bhp and a thrifty 115g/km. Next year there will be a supercharged version with almost 100bhp but with even better emission and economy figures – hence Nissan's decision that a diesel version isn't required.

Once you get your head around that it's hard not to agree. Even this lower-output 1.2 is more than enough to pull the Micra along easily, whether mated to the five-speed manual or the new CVT transmission. It's brisk enough and, as you'd expect, a cinch to drive, with the kind of accuracy and good weighting that has become something of a Japanese trademark.

Refinement is right up there too, with the suspension being tuned to deal with urban scars rather than hairpin turns and rightly so. It can handle the bends, but in truth almost all buyers will spend their time on tougher streets.

There is good space in the Micra too, with tweaks to the body shape designed to increase rear headroom, and the simple dashboard design leaves more room for legs. The boot is respectable considering the compact exterior, but dropping the seats brings not only tons of space but a flat floor too.

Understandably Nissan has stuck with a successful recipe. The latest Micra is a very honest car and doesn't pretend to be something it's not, but the quality of the engineering underneath makes it a quality car to own, and the supercharged version coming next year might just be the car that leaves its supermini rivals way behind.

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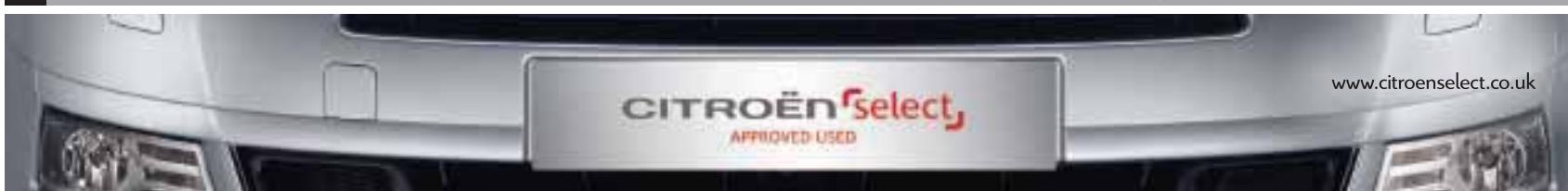
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CITROËN C2

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| 2009 (09) C2 1.1i 3dr VT | £6,495 |
| Arctic Steel, remote control central locking, ABS | |
| 2009 (59) C2 1.1i 3dr VT | £6,995 |
| Sport Red, remote control central locking, ABS | |
| 2007 (56) C2 1.1i SX | £4,995 |
| Arctic Steel, air conditioning, electric window | |
| 2006 (06) C2 1.6i 16V VTS | £5,495 |
| Poseidon Blue, air conditioning, ABS, CD player | |

CITROËN C3

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| 2006 (06) C3 1.4 SX 5 door | £4,995 |
| Black with a sunroof, air conditioning, power steering | |

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| 2007 (57) C3 1.4i COOL 5 door | £4,995 |
| Tuscan Blue, air conditioning, e/w, CD/radio | |

2009 (58) C3 1.4i CACHET 5 door

Iron Grey, a/c, remote control central locking

£6,995

CITROËN NEW C3

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| 2010 (10) NEW C3 1.4i 75hp VTR+ | £9,995 |
| Citrus Green, air conditioning, ABS, radio/CD player | |

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|---|---------|
| 2009 (59) NEW C3 1.4 VTi 95hp EXCLUSIVE | £10,995 |
| Botticelli Blue, 17 inch Sonneberg Alloy wheels | |

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| 2010 (10) NEW C3 1.4HDi 70hp VTR+ | £11,995 |
| Thorium Grey, air conditioning, ABS, radio/CD player | |

CITROËN C3 PICASSO

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| 2010 (10) C3 PICASSO 1.6HDi VTR+ | £11,995 |
| Belle Ille Blue, air conditioning, cruise control | |

CITROËN DS3

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|---|---------|
| 2010 (10) DS3 1.4 DSign | £10,495 |
| Thorium Grey, power steering, radio/CD player | |

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| 2010 (59) DS3 1.6i 16V DSport 150hp | £13,995 |
| Black with White Roof, 17" Silver alloy wheels | |

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|---|---------|
| 2010 (10) DS3 1.6HDi 90hp DStyle | £13,495 |
| Sport yellow with black roof, 17" black alloy wheels, city signature pack including rear parking sensors, armrest, climate control, light sensitive headlamps, rain sensitive wipers, folding mirrors etc | |

CITROËN C3

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| 2009 (59) C4 1.6i 16V COOL COUPE | £8,995 |
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|--|---------|
| 2009 (59) C4 1.6HDi 92hp LOEB COUPE | £10,995 |
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|--|--------|
| 2006 (05) C4 2.0i 16V 180bhp VTS Coupe | £5,995 |
| Wicked Red, air conditioning, rear spoiler, body kit | |

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|--|--------|
| 2008 (08) C4 1.6i 16V COOL 5 door | £6,995 |
| Arctic Steel, air conditioning, ABS, radio/CD player | |

CITROËN MULTISPACE

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|---|--------|
| 2010 (60) NEMO MULTISPACE 1.4i | £8,995 |
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|---|--------|
| 2006 (56) BERLINGO MULTISPACE 1.4i Forte | £5,295 |
| Iron Grey, power steering, remote control central locking | |

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|---|--------|
| 2009 (58) BERLINGO MULTISPACE | £7,995 |
| 1.6i 16V 90hp VTR Passion Red, power steering | |

CITROËN C4 PICASSO

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|--|---------|
| 2009 (58) C4 PICASSO 1.6HDi 110hp VTR+ | £10,995 |
| Tivoli Blue with air conditioning, alloy wheels, ABS | |

CITROËN GRAND C4 PICASSO

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|---|---------|
| 2010 (60) GRAND C4 PICASSO 1.6HDi 110hp | £15,995 |
| VTR+ 7 Seater, Kynos Blue, air conditioning | |

CITROËN C5

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|---|---------|
| 2010 (10) C5 1.6HDi 110hp VTR+ Sat Nav | £15,995 |
| 4 door, Arctic Steel with Myway Satellite navigation, ABS | |

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| 2009 (09) C5 2.2HDi 16V 173hp VTR+ | £14,995 |
| 4 door, Deep Red, air conditioning, alloy wheels | |

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| 2010 (60) C5 1.6Hdi 110hp VTR+ Navi | £17,995 |
| TOURER, Black, sat nav, air conditioning | |

CITROËN C6

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|---|---------|
| 2009 (59) C6 2.7HDi V6 Lignage Auto 4 door | £15,995 |
| Deep Red with alcantara Grey upholstery, alloy wheels | |

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|---|---------|
| 2010 (10) C6 2.2HDi EXCLUSIVE Auto | £19,995 |
| 4 door Iron Grey with leather upholstery, sat nav 1 Owner | |

CITROËN C-CROSSER

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|---|---------|
| 2010 (60) C-Crosser 2.2Hdi Auto | £22,995 |
| EXCLUSIVE 4x4 Black with black leather seats, sat nav | |

CITROËN VANS

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|---|--------|
| 2010 (60) BERLINGO 1st VAN 1.6HDi 75hp | £7,995 |
| Polar White with near side sliding door, power steering | |

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|--|---------|
| 2010 (60) Dispatch 1.6Hdi L1H1 1000 90hp | £11,250 |
| Pacific Blue with sliding doors both sides, 3 seater | |

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05 05 Mitsubishi Evo 2.0 FQ-340 IX4 GSR 380 BHP
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|------------------------|---|
| 07 57 | Seat Alhambra 2.0 Tdi Reference Est, 7 seats, 6sp, 1 owner, 92,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, immob, EW, CD, Met Blue |
| 08 58 | Ford Focus 1.8 Td Style 5dr Est, 1 owner, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, in met black |
| 08 08 | Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi Style Est, 1 owner, 64000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, Met Grey |
| 07 57 | Peugeot 307 1.6 HDi Est, 1 owner, 88,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, cruise, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, alloys, in Met Red |

| SALOONS, SPORTS & PRESTIGE | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 08 08 | VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 2.0 TDI SE EST, 1 owner, FSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, E/W, Htd seats, R/C/Locking, Immob, CD, Leather, Alloys, In Black |
| 06 06 | SAAB 9-3 2.0 VECTOR SEMI-AUTO 175 BHP 2dr Convertible, 1 Owner, 55k, FDSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, Cruise, R/C/Locking, Immob, E/W, CD, E/Hood, Leather, Alloys in Parchment Silver |
| 05 05 | Vauxhall Astra 2.0 Bertone Turbo Convertible, 28,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, Cruise, RCL, Immob, EW, Htd Seats, Alloys, Peacock Blue |
| 04 04 | Subaru Impreza 2.0 VRX Turbo, AWD, 4dr, 71,000 miles, FDSH, a/c, r/c/locking, immob, ABS, PAS, e/w, CD, fogs, alloys, in met blue |

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|-------|---|
| 02 52 | Mercedes C230K 1.8 Coupe 2 dr, 94k, fsh, a/c, cruise, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, panoramic s/roof, e/w, CD, htd seats, leather, alloys, in silver |
| 01 Y | Subaru Impreza 2.0 VRX Turbo 4dr, 2 Owners, 75,000 miles, SH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, Alloys, Silver |
| 06 06 | Ford Focus 2.0 TDCi Ghia4dr, 6sp, 2 owners, 97k, FSH, a/c, e/w, ABS, PAS, cruise, r/c/locking, immob, CD, alloys, in met blue |
| 02 52 | Peugeot 206 1.6 Coupe Convertible, 59,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, ER, EW, CD, Leather, Alloys, Met Blue |

HATCHBACKS

| | |
|-------|---|
| 08 08 | Seat Leon 1.9 TDI Reference 5dr, 1 owner, 48,000 miles, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, in silver |
| 07 57 | Seat Leon 1.9 TDI Reference 5 dr, 1 owner, 73k, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, in met black |
| 05 55 | Vauxhall Signum 3.0 CDTI Design 5dr, 6sp, 60k, FDSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, fogs, alloys, in met black |
| 05 55 | Volkswagen Golf 1.4 S 5dr, 2 owners, 58,000k, FDSH, ABS, PAS, a/c, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, in blue |
| 07 56 | Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Edge 115BHP, 1 owner, 83k, FSH, ABS, PAS, A/C, RCL, EW, CD, Alloy, in Met Green |

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|-------|---|
| 07 57 | Ford KA 1.3 Style 3dr, 1 Owner, 37,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, CL, Immob, EW, Radio/CD, Drivers Airbag, Cloth Trim, White |
| 04 54 | Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 Life 5dr, 96,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, CBC, RCL, Immob, EW, EM, CD, Met Silver |
| 04 54 | Renault Clio 1.2 16V Extreme 3 DR, 1 owner, 51,000 mls, FDSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, sunroof, CD, e/w, in silver |
| 04 54 | CD, e/w, in silver |

COMMERCIALS

| | |
|-------|---|
| 08 57 | Mercedes Sprinter 311 2.2 CDi LWB Box Van, 1 owner, 138,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, tail lift, in white |
| 06 06 | NISSAN NAVARA 2.5 DCI OUTLAW D/C AUTO, 1 Owner, 103k, FSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, E/W, R/C/Locking, Immob, Side Steps, Roof Rails, Alloys, In Met Black |
| 08 57 | Mitsubishi L200 2.5 DI-D 4 WORK, D/C, 1 owner, 80,000k, FSH, ABS, PAS, c/locking, immob, CD, r/d lock, in white |
| 07 07 | Mitsubishi L200 2.5 DI-D 4 Life Double Cab, 1 owner, 63,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, CL, Immob, EW, CD, Twin side Loading Drs, White |
| 07 57 | Volkswagen Transporter 1.9 TDI T28 SWB 102 BHP, 1 owner, 97,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, immob, Side loading door, CD, Ply Lined, White |

| | |
|-------|---|
| 07 57 | Mercedes Vito 109 2.2 CDi Xtra Long Van, 6sp, 1 owner, 111,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, ply lined, in white |
| 06 56 | Mercedes Vito 109 2.2 CDi Compact SWB, 6sp, 2 Owneras, 64,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, ASR, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, Twin Side Loading Drs, White |
| 07 57 | Mercedes Vito 2.2 CDi 109 LWB, 3 seater, 6sp, 1 Owner, 117,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, Twin side loading drs, White |
| 07 57 | Ford Transit 85 2.2D T280 SWB, 3 seater, 1 Owner, 104,000 miles, ABS, PAS, ESP, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, Side loading dr, White |
| 07 07 | Ford Transit 100 2.4D T350 LWB, Semi High Roof, 3 seater, 1 owner, 117,000 miles, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, CD, Side loading dr, White |

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|-------|--|
| 07 57 | Ford Transit 85 2.2D T280 SWB, 3 seater, 1 owner, 103,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, R/C/L, Immobiliser in White |
| 07 07 | Vauxhall Astra 1.9 CDTI Sportive Van, 6sp, 1 owner, 79k, FSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, R/C/L, Immob, EW, Alloys, Met Silver |
| 08 08 | VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTI 2000 CREW VAN, 5 Seater, 1 Owner, 61k, FSH, ABS, PAS, R/C/Locking, Immob, 2x Side Loading Doors, 1/2 ply lined, In White |
| 07 07 | PEUGEOT EXPERT 1.9D 815 70, 3 SEATER, 1 owner, 60,000 miles, FS, C/Locking, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, in White |
| 08 57 | Volkswagen Caddy 2.0 SDI 69PS, 1 Owner, 106,000 miles, ABS, PAS, ASR, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, White |

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|-------|--|
| 08 08 | VAUXHALL ASTRAVAN 1.3 CDTI CLUB, 6 sp, 1 Owner, 73k, FSH, ABS, PAS, R/C/Locking, Immob, EW, CD, In White |
| 07 07 | Vauxhall Astravan 1.7 CDTI Sportive, 6sp, 10,000 miles, FSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, R/C/L, E/W, Immobiliser, Alloys, CD in White |
| 07 07 | Vauxhall Astravan 1.7 CDTI Sportive, 6sp, 10,000 miles, FSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, R/C/L, E/W, Immobiliser, Alloys, CD in White |
| 07 07 | Vauxhall Astravan 1.7 CDTI Sportive, 6sp, 10,000 miles, FSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, White |



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01 51 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 SE Auto est

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£6,995

07 57 Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi Style 5dr
1 Owner, 47,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, Computer, CD, Met Blue



£5,995

05 55 Volkswagen Golf 1.4 S 5dr
Hatchback, Blue, Petrol 1390cc, 5-Speed, Manual, 58000 miles



£6,495

02 52 Mercedes-Benz C Class C230 Kompressor SE Coupe
Aluminium Silver, Petrol 1796cc, Automatic 94000 miles

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58 Plate. Skoda Octavia Elegance TDi 2.0

Finished in Black, Sports Pack, 15,000 miles £13,995

58 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDi AUTOMATIC Hatchback

Finished in Dark Grey, 15,000 miles £12,995

08 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic, Leather Interior, 22,870 miles.

£12,795

07 Plate Skoda Octavia 2.0 VRS TDi Hatchback

Finished in Black, FSH, 34,000 miles, FSH £10,995

05 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £6,995

09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,700 miles.

£8,995

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 3 1.9 TDi Estate

Finished in Grey, 27,000 miles, FSH, £8,995

*Correct at time of going to press.

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 27,250 miles. £8,795

10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,500 miles. £6,995

07 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic, 22,500 miles. £6,995

58 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,495

57 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Classic 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Graphite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 39,500 miles. £5,995

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05 Plate. BMW 3 Series 2.5 325Ci Sport 2-Dr Convertible

Finished in Imola Red, 31,500 miles. £12,995

08 Plate. Volvo C30 2.4i SE 2-Dr Coupe

Finished in Electric Silver, 14,053 miles. £12,495

59 Plate. SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S Emocion 5-Door Hatchback

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06 Plate. Toyota Yaris 1.3 VVT-i T3 5-Dr

Finished in Eclipse Black, 32,500 miles. £5,995

04 Plate. Honda Civic 2.0 Type S 5-Dr Hatchback

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56 Plate. Honda Jazz 1.4i-DSi SE 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Ice Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 21,135 miles. £5,795

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| 10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE | 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. |
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| 07 57 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi Styline | 5-door Hatchback in Zenith Grey |
| Metallic. 29,000 miles. | Was: £9,995 Now: £9,495 Save £500! |
| 10 10 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sport | 3-door Hatchback in Emocion Red. |
| 4,000 miles. | Was: £12,570 Now: £9,295 Save £3,275! |
| 08 58 SEAT Leon 1.6 Emocion | 5-door Hatchback in Emocion |
| Red. 10,000 miles. | Was: £9,795 Now: £9,295 Save £500! |
| 08 58 SEAT Leon 1.6 Emocion | 5-door Hatchback in Crono |
| Yellow. 21,000 miles. | Was: £9,495 Now: £9,195 Save £300! |
| 07 07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi Styline | 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic |
| Metallic. 37,500 miles. | Was: £9,295 Now: £8,995 Save £300! |
| 08 58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 16V SE 85PS | 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. |
| 17,500 miles. | £8,295 |
| 07 07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi PD Styline | 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey |
| Metallic. 54,561 miles. | £7,995 |
| 08 58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE | 5-door Hatchback in Black. |
| 19,000 miles. | £7,995 |
| 08 08 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sportrider | 5-door Hatchback in Zenith |
| Grey, 17,000 miles. | £6,895 |
| 07 56 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Styline | 3-door Hatchback in Luna Grey, |
| Automatic 17,000 miles. | £5,795 |
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| 05 05 BMW Z4 3.0i SE | 2-door Roadster/Convertible Tiptronic |
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| 08 07 Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CTDi Exclusive | 5-door Hatchback |
| Automatic/Tiptronic in Silver. | 31,000 miles. |
| Was: £8,295 | Now: £7,795 Save £500! |
| 08 57 Skoda Octavia 1.6 FSi Classic | 5-door Hatchback in Gold |
| Metallic. | 23,600 miles. |
| Was: £7,995 | Now: £7,295 Save £700! |
| 07 07 Renault Clio 1.4 Dynamique | 5-door Hatchback in Mercury |
| Metallic. | 24,500 miles. |
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| 07 07 Skoda Roomster 2 1.4 | 5-door Hatchback in Deep Sea |
| Blue. | 23,000 miles. |
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| 08 08 Renault Twingo 1.2 GT | 3-door Hatchback in Black. |
| 12,000 miles. | Was: £6,995 Now: £6,395 Save £600! |
| 07 07 Renault Modus 1.4 16V Dynamique | 5-door Hatchback in |
| Antique Green. | 10,800 miles. |
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| 07 57 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate | 5-door Hatchback |
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INSIDE THIS WEEK

THE Government has promised to shake-up the state pension system in a bid to tackle the shortfall created by both a rise in life expectancy and a lack of retirement savings.

We look at how the pension reform and new laws set to be implemented next year will affect employers and employees alike.



SIMON ROBINSON

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Airport inquiry decision will decide Marsh's fate

By SIMON ROBINSON

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

A PUBLIC inquiry into the controversial Lydd airport expansion plan will begin next week.

The review will be held at Shepway Civic Centre, Folkestone, and is expected to last 13 weeks. The inquiry officials' ruling will have a massive impact on Romney Marsh, regardless of the outcome.

Airport supporters claim the £25 million plans will give the area a much-needed economic lift.

Lydd airport bosses say an extra terminal and extended runway would create an additional 330 jobs on site and 170 indirect jobs in associated businesses such as hotels, restaurants, taxi firms, and car-hire companies.

They also argue the expansion would make a major contribution to the area's regeneration and compensate for the closure and decommissioning of Dungeness A and B respectively.

Those against argue that any airport expansion would have a devastating effect on wildlife and coastal wetlands.

The original planning application, approved by Shepway District Council in March, 2010, was met with more than 12,000 objections,



INTAKE: The Lydd airport inquiry opens on Tuesday and is expected to last 13 weeks

including from Greenpeace, the RSPB, British Energy, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, and Kent Wildlife Trust.

The inquiry was ordered by the Government after environmental concerns were raised.

The inquiry – which begins on Tuesday – will

look at each issue on a topic-by-topic basis and cover ornithology, noise, ecology, nuclear safety and the socio-economic implications.

Members of the public will be able to speak in early July. A final decision on the application is not expected until late 2011 at the earliest.

The case for – and against – planned expansion at Lydd

FOR: In a presentation to Shepway Economic Regeneration Partnership last month, the airport's owners laid out the case for their plans to be given the go-ahead.

Air traffic control manager Tim Maskens said: "Development of Lydd would be consistent with Government policy on airports and also has the potential to contribute to regeneration within Shepway and further afield.

"The socio-economic impacts are

very positive. Shepway is under-performing economically and is in need of regeneration.

"Local economic strategies give explicit support for the development of Lydd because of the scope for job creation and acting as a stimulus to other economic activity. In the event of the planning applications not being approved, the future of Lydd airport is uncertain. A prosperous and thriving Lydd airport is vital to the future economic health of our region."

AGAINST: Opponents say Dungeness is one of the most important and sensitive wildlife habitats in the UK. Throughout consultation the RSPB maintained that laws protecting wildlife mean it is up to the airport to prove its plans will not be damaging.

RSPB South East's Sam Dawes said: "Development of Lydd airport threatens the ability to protect this special place, which provides much-needed space for both wildlife and people."

The charity says the protection levels highlight its importance, nationally and internationally. The shingle landscape is home to unique wildlife and the coastal wetlands are of European importance for waterfowl.

Last year saw a pair of bitterns breed at the RSPB's Dungeness reserve for the first time and this winter also saw record numbers of the species. The reserve also hosted the UK's first ever pair of breeding purple herons.

Healthcare drive to ease Pfizer pain

SAGA has revealed plans for a rapid expansion of its east Kent operations, creating up to 1,000 jobs.

The firm – which specialises in services for the over-50s, including insurance, finance and holidays – says it will fill existing vacancies and create a range of new posts over the next 12 months.

The recruitment boom will allow Saga, Kent's largest private sector employer, to continue with its recent healthcare division expansion.

Earlier this week the company completed a £120 million acquisition of a healthcare company, Nestor, which employs 9,000 people across the country. And Saga bosses said they were



keen to further develop their healthcare business both organically and through acquisition.

A spokesman said: "Our intention is to grow the healthcare businesses so we will be as famous for providing healthcare as we are for holidays, cruises, insurance and savings. This is very much a strategic drive to create a

national healthcare business, with its roots here in Kent."

Saga's expansion provides some solace for the area, which was stunned by Pfizer's decision to close its Sandwich base, resulting in the loss of 2,400 jobs.

The Saga spokesman said they were interested in recruiting former Pfizer staff.

He said: "We have been in touch with Pfizer to let them know we are looking for people with a range of skills, from work in our contact centres, to those interested in general management, IT, and HR."

Saga has sites in Thanet, Folkestone and Hythe.



Comment

CONTROVERSIAL airport plans for the county continue to divide opinion. The proposals – to build an island airport in the middle of the Thames Estuary and expand operations at Lydd on Romney Marsh – has seen an environment vs economy battle break out.

The Estuary airport plan, dubbed Boris Island after its biggest backer, London Mayor Boris Johnson, was seemingly dead in the water after vociferous opposition from the RSPB, Medway Council and Kent County Council, among others.

But the Mayor refuses to drop the proposal, insisting South East airport provisions must be expanded and that the onus should not be on the capital to provide it.

Pro-Lydd airport campaigners say the £25 million terminal and extended runway plan would result in a much-needed boost for south Kent.

They made an impassioned appeal to Shepway District Council for the expansion to be given the go-ahead on both job creation and economic investment grounds.

But their pleas were also countered by more than 12,000 objections to the application.

As with Boris Island, the RSPB and pressure groups such as the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England were among the loudest anti-airport expansion voices to be heard.

The two Kent proposals throw up an interesting debate: at what point does economic investment become more important than environmental impact, if at all?

There is no doubt that the Lydd airport plan would be welcomed in the area on purely financial terms.

The new terminal is expected to be able to handle up to 500,000 passengers a year, which will create hundreds of jobs and bring a huge cash injection for the local economy.

But should the need for a financial boost outweigh the potential damage to wildlife and coastal wetlands?

That is for a public inquiry to decide. It starts on Tuesday.

BUSINESS EDITOR, SIMON ROBINSON
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New chapter in WH Smith buyout

NATIONAL high street giant WH Smith has bought 22 British Bookshops and Stationers (BBS) stores, including two in Kent.

The immediate future of the Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells branches was secured after the retailer paid just over £1 million to the administrators of the struggling chain.

More than 200 BBS workers will transfer to WH Smith in a phased takeover which will begin on Tuesday, February 22.

BBS, more familiarly known as Sussex Stationers, expanded across the South East during the 1980s and 1990s. The firm, which has branches in Ashford, Canterbury, Dover and Maidstone, went into administration

last month. A spokesman for recovery specialists Zoflo Cooper, appointed by the administrators, said the firm had been brought to the brink as a result of poor pre-Christmas sales and cash-flow problems in its dealings with publishers.

The future of the remaining 50 BBS stores across the region remains uncertain.

Our central role in Dickens celebration

By **SIMON ROBINSON**

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TOURISM bosses have great expectations that the county can capitalise on the bicentenary of literary giant Charles Dickens' birth.

Visit Kent chiefs have been working closely with partner agencies with the goal of drawing visitors into the county in 2012.

A Kent and Medway Dickens 2012 working party has already identified a number of objectives.

Plans under way include enhancing the popular Broadstairs and Medway Dickens festivals; an exhibition at the Guildhall Museum, Rochester; a movie map highlighting key locations used in films of Dickens' novels; starting restoration work at the Swiss Chalet and Eastgate Gardens, Rochester; and the opening of a visitor centre at Gad's Hill Place,



EXCITING: Sandra Matthews-Marsh

Higham, where the Victorian man of letters made his home and died.

Visit Kent chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said: "We are also working with Visit Britain for their international Dickens bicentenary campaign, as Kent and Medway are central to his life and novels.

"It is hard to think of anywhere in the county that has not influenced at least one of his novels in some way.

"Like all the best writers, Dickens drew inspiration from his own life experiences, the places he had seen and the people he encountered. Many Kent and Medway bicentenary projects are under way and there are more in the pipeline. This is another exciting opportunity for Kent and Medway to really showcase our county when we welcome our visitors in 2012. Furthermore, the projects are all being designed not only to deliver next year but to provide a lasting legacy to attract visitors in years to come and support our 3,000 tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses and the 63,000 jobs



DICKENSIAN: Rochester is closely associated with the great author they sustain."

The Kent and Medway Dickens 2012 working party includes representatives from Medway Council, Kent County Council, Thanet council and Gravesham council, Kent Film Office, Dickens Fellowship, and members of the Dickens family.

Looking for leading ladies

A NETWORKING group for businesswomen is hoping to expand into Kent. Ladies at 11 is looking to form groups in Ashford, Maidstone, Sittingbourne and Sevenoaks.

Sarah Martin, founder of Ladies at 11, said: "This year is already looking to be an exciting time for us. Becoming a Ladies at 11 group leader increases both personal and business profiles in the area.

"It can also help to increase sales opportunities and profitability. We are looking for ambitious, enterprising, professional women to join our team of leaders and to run a monthly meeting. "Group leaders are provided with training and support and ideally are already keen networkers."

The benefits of the group have already impressed one Kent businesswoman.

Gill Buchanan, group leader of Tunbridge Wells' Ladies at 11, said: "Initially, I went to the Woking and Weybridge groups and was impressed with the way the groups operated, the numbers of businesswomen attending the meetings and the atmosphere.

"The groups are informal but still have a business focus, which makes them



NETWORKING: Sarah Martin (left)

and Gill Buchanan of Ladies at 11

different to other networking events for women. I have made some great contacts and the group is going from strength to strength, but it will be great when the other Kent groups are up and running, too.

"As well as the extra money I make by

being a group leader, the greatest benefit is that my own business, Hens Dancing, has benefited. Being a Ladies at 11 group leader helps raise your profile and increase awareness of your business."

Ladies 11 holds focused, productive meetings, which are open to any businesswomen across a variety of trades, from financial advisers and marketers to photographers and make-up artists.

Unlike other networking groups, the number of trades and industries in the organisation are not limited to one per group.

Networking groups for business are particularly useful for new businesses in the current economic climate.

Anika Petri, owner of Unique Curtains, joined the group just as she was starting her business.

She said: "Being a member of Ladies at 11 has been terrific. I have received a lot of support but also the leads and sales from the contacts I've made have paid for my membership and helped to get my business off the ground. I can't recommend it highly enough."

For more information, visit www.ladiesat11.com or call Sarah Martin on 07855 465202.



CAREER coaches Passe-Partout Consulting have issued a five-point redundancy survival checklist.

Co-founders Alex Taskin and Darren O'Conor said the first step was to stop and take stock before working through the five steps. Mr Taskin said: "Redundancy is an incredibly difficult time and often a real shock to people. Once some of the initial feelings are worked through, it's about taking some serious 'you' time and working through exactly what you want and what you can offer a potential employer. "Being positive is the most important thing, hard as that may be."

For more information or to talk about coaching or people development opportunities go to www.passe-partout.com or phone 01634 844 944 or email Sam Oliver at samantha.oliver@passe-partout.com

The five-point plan:

- Don't panic – be positive and try to look at it as an opportunity, use your time wisely, break actions down in achievable tasks.
- Talk about it – get financial and pension advice, speak to your local council, go onto the directgov website, look to your own support network, speak to a career coach.
- Soul search – identify your goals and diagnose your current reality, what do you really want to do and what makes you happy? Could this be a chance to re-train, start your own business or change careers?
- Sell yourself – work up options, rework your CV, summarise your skills and experience into a 30-second pitch, practice interview questions, get into business or social networks.
- Get out there – take action, talk to agencies, apply for jobs, start a new business, enrol in a course.

THE University of Greenwich's income from externally sponsored research and consultancy has rocketed by 60 per cent in the last two years to an annual figure of £15.3 million. The rise, when added to funding from government sources, has seen the university's total research revenues nearly double since 2007/08.

Professor Tom Barnes, deputy vice-chancellor for research and enterprise, said: "Businesses, charities and local and national government all come to the University of Greenwich when they want an expert team to undertake research which is directly relevant to their needs."

"The university is highly skilled in helping all sorts of organisations apply new concepts and techniques to help them achieve their goals."

"Our vibrant research and enterprise culture also benefits the wider community."

More than 250 clients have used the University of Greenwich to carry out research and consultancy services. These range from local businesses using the university's start-up facilities in the Medway Enterprise Hub, to governments and multinational companies such as BAE and BP.

A FREE 'green' economy conference and exhibition will be held in Canterbury this month.

The event – A Greener Economy: Time for Change? – will highlight some of the flourishing eco-friendly businesses, services, resources and initiatives in the area, review how the environment contributes to the economy, and provide opportunities to discuss how a greener economy could be developed. The conference will be at Augustine House, Canterbury, on Wednesday, February 23, from 8.30am to 1.30pm. It is open to all organisations in the Canterbury district. Bookings can be made online at events@canterbury.gov.uk or by calling 01227 862532.

Careers fair takes a stand to offer future of opportunity

A GROUNDBREAKING coming together of businesses and young people has proved a success in its three years of operation in Folkestone, *writes Nick Ames*.

This year's Shepway Careers Fair saw 90 companies and organisations take stands to give students and pupils a glimpse of the opportunities available to them.

A key aim is also to keep young people interested in working locally and contributing their skills to Kent companies as businesses look to progress through testing economic times.

County councillor Leyland Ridings provided the opening address at the Leas Cliff Hall on Wednesday.

"I think there are as many business opportunities out there as during periods of full employment," he said. "There are more innovation opportunities as the business community looks towards developing a wider range of skills."

In schools and universities there is a far greater emphasis on developing young people's abilities in fields such as finance and marketing, as education and business work

To view this clip, log on @ www.businessforkent.co.uk



Cllr Leyland Ridings opens the event at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone. Search 'jobs fair'

together to give those coming into the work environment the best chance of success.

"I would very much like to see events such as this extended across Kent so other educational and business communities could benefit as

do those in Shepway."

Pupils from grammar schools, comprehensives and colleges attended the day-long event which included stands from companies, visitor attractions and public bodies.

Chelsea Isles, 14, from Pent Valley School, said: "It gives us the chance to see what is out there when we leave school. The more aware we are of the world of work, the better the career choices we can make."

Chris Kirkham, of Discover Folkestone, was keen to show young people the benefits of the tourist trade to the area.

"About 3,500 people work in tourism locally – that's seven per cent of the workforce," he said. "The trade itself brings in £200 million a year. This is a chance to let people know how important that sector is and show them that there are jobs available. If young people want to get ahead they don't have to go up to London or elsewhere. There are opportunities right on their doorstep."

Event organiser Els Howard said: "This bringing together of young people and those who want to harness their talents is the way forward for the local economy to make the best use of those about to leave education and enter the world of work."

Firm's heavy price in asbestos breach

A CONSTRUCTION company has been fined £10,000 after breaching asbestos regulations during a church demolition job.

The Health and Safety Executive launched an investigation into Berry Estates Development in April, last year, after receiving a complaint about works taking place on the corner of Holborough Road, Snodland.

The site was owned by company director Bernard Berry.

Both Berry and the firm, of Wateringbury, near Maidstone, were charged with breaching articles five, seven and 16 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 and went before Maidstone Magistrates on Tuesday.

Debris

The court heard two HSE inspectors visited the site on April 23. They found the majority of the old church had already been demolished but debris containing asbestos was blocking the pavement on one side and had also spilled out onto the pavement on the other side.

Principal contractor Berry could not provide paperwork such as a demolition plan, method statements or risk assessments. No asbestos survey had been completed prior to demolition and site security was poor.

A prohibition notice was served

preventing further work on site. After the notice was served Mr Berry commissioned a pre-demolition asbestos survey, which highlighted asbestos-containing materials across the site.

An HSE investigation showed the building was being knocked into pedestrian areas and broken up with an excavator. It showed no evidence of employee training, no personal protection or respiratory equipment and no plan of work on site.

It also revealed no provision to prevent dust spreading during demolition and crushing. HSE inspector David Fussell, said: "The company failed to take any measures aimed at controlling workers' exposure to asbestos and reduce any future incidence of related diseases."

"This is a shocking case as it was foreseeable that a building of this age may have had asbestos in the fabric, as the subsequent survey highlighted."

"If the company had carried out a survey and prepared a plan of work prior to demolition, the risk of exposure to workers or the public could have been avoided."

The company and Berry pleaded guilty to all charges. The firm was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,391. Berry was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay the same amount in costs.



GOOD JOB: The careers fair attracted 90 firms and organisations

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The key to our economy

by Simon Ludden, financial planning manager with Furley Page Solicitors

I RECENTLY had an opportunity to hear a talk by one of the City's top economists. Usually these talks are full of doom and gloom, but not this time. Key indicators show the markets are good value, the US economy is looking strong and interest rates look likely to stay low – at least until late this year, but possibly until November, 2012, or beyond. Talk of a double-dip recession seemed a distant memory.

Then we had the UK GDP figures for Q4 of 2010. The forecast was for the economy to grow by 0.5 per cent. Instead we saw a 0.5 per cent contraction which meant the projected growth figures were disastrously wrong. Can this be explained purely by bad weather, or have the Government and Bank of England got it wrong? Is double-dip back on the agenda?

Even if we take the weather out of the equation, we would only have had zero growth.

While I don't for one minute feel a double-dip recession is likely, there is no doubt that many of us are in a period of belt-tightening and job losses may not be good for the economy generally.

However, for companies that export, a combination of the ability to restructure personnel, lower wage increases and a cheap pound has led to almost boom times.

Manufacturing hasn't had it so good in quite a while. But what these companies need to ensure is that they take care of long-term growth by gradually absorbing



Simon Ludden

those out of work. This will lead to sustainable growth.

For the first time since 2008, two members of the Bank of England monetary committee that sets interest rates voted for a 0.25 per cent rise. However, that was before the Q4 figures were announced. There is no doubt in my mind that raising interest rates at this time would be a disaster for the economy.

The resulting rise in house repossession and a stronger pound would only be detrimental to recovery. In any case, there must be severe doubts as to whether raising interest rates would have any effect on inflation.

The inflationary pressures at present are higher oil and commodity prices, and record food prices. As these are led predominantly by world economic issues, why would raising interest rates work here?

The governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King, has indicated that a rise in interest rates is not on the agenda. He needs to stand strong against media pressure which is starting to talk it up.

So far there is every indication that he will do so, even if it does involve writing a letter to the Chancellor each month to explain why inflation is not on target. I'm with Mr King, but he needs more than a few lone voices. Businesses have to put their collective voice to a strategy that makes sound economic sense, and that can only be keeping interest rates where they are for some time to come.

Icing on the cake for 5-9 enterprise trendsetters

By ED HILL

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO entrepreneurs from Tunbridge Wells have been included in a book about turning a hobby into a business.

Claire Melvin started her cupcake business, Claire's Handmade Cakes, while holding down a day job with a local charity and Steve Emecz runs MX Publishing while working for a software firm. Both feature in a book by Emma Jones, founder of Enterprise Nation, the UK's biggest website for home workers.

Case study

Aptly named 'Working 5-9', the book includes real-life case studies of individuals who have turned a passion or hobby into a way of making a living while holding down a day job at the same time.

The pair will be talking about their experiences with the author at a event organised by the Staples store at Fountains Retail Park, Tunbridge Wells, on Tuesday.

Claire said: "Ideally I would like my 5-9 business to become my full-time job. If I am successful, I would like to run a Fairtrade and organic bakery and coffee shop in Tunbridge Wells where I make my cakes on the side.

"I'm looking forward to sharing my



BY THE BOOK:
Emma Jones

experiences – and some of my cupcakes – with other would-be entrepreneurs."

Working 5-9 focuses on the growing band of people who are running a successful business in their spare time. It profiles Claire's venture as a great example of a home business.

Emma Jones said: "It was in late 2008 when I spotted a trend, which involved people setting up a business without giving up on their full-time job. Basically they were working 9am to 5pm as normal, then from 5pm to 9pm on their own project.

"For many the appeal is that they can build a business at night and weekends from a spare room, while holding onto a salary. This is low-cost and low-risk and the very best way to start."

"Our research suggests that by the end of 2011, more than eight million people in the UK will be making some form of income from home, which is incredible."

Emma started her first home business at the age of 27 by working 5 to 9 and sold it within two years of trading. In 2006 she launched Enterprise Nation and has since written two books on the subject of home start-



SWEET: Claire Melvin and Steve Emecz (inset) are in the new book

ups. The Staples event will provide tips for those who want to set up a business from home, with advice on how to apply the technology to ensure it is up-and-running while you're at work.

There will also be an opportunity to talk to other successful 5-9ers. The first 50 people to register online to attend will also receive a copy of Emma's new book on the night.

Staples has been working with Enterprise Nation to support this growing trend during the last 12 months, including the launch of a 5-9ers club, which offered discounts to people launching their business from home in their free time.

Start-ups

Store manager Nick Stevens said: "We've noticed we have an increasing number of start-ups and home businesses in our customer base and are thrilled to be hosting this event, which we hope will inspire and encourage others."

"There's clearly an enormous amount of entrepreneurial spirit out there and our 5-9ers are a great example of what you can do if you put your mind to it."

And £1,000 of Staples vouchers will also be up for grabs to help prospective new businesses get the best start. The event starts at 6pm. Go to working5to9tunbridge.eventbrite.com or pick up a leaflet in store if you want to attend.

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Reach for the virtual sky

ADM Computing is helping budding pilots to fly without leaving the ground.

The IT business, based in Canterbury, has donated three PCs to Faversham air cadets to help with flight simulation training.

Carrie-Anne Feltham of ADM said: "We deal with many large companies in and around Kent and often when customers upgrade their systems they allow us to recycle their old machines."

"We clean and test them before donating them to a local cause. We hope the cadets enjoy many hours on the PCs and increase their skills through the simulation software."

Warrant Officer Phil Camp, commander of the Faversham squadron, said: "We use simulators to teach cadets about flight controls, instruments and navigation. They apply their knowledge when we take them flying in the RAF's two-seat training aircraft."



SHEPHERD NEAME Neame's brewery tours drew record numbers last year – up 25 per cent on the 2009 figures. The rise helped the Faversham-based brewer's overall visitor numbers rise by 10 per cent year-on-year.

Visitor centre manager Graham Hukins said: "As Britain's oldest brewer we are proud of our heritage and delighted to show visitors the heart of the working brewery. Our beer and food matching evenings have proved extremely popular and we have had to increase the number of tours to meet demand. We are looking forward to another busy year."

Brewery tours now include the recently converted wine and spirits store, with a display of original pub signs, hop-picking memorabilia and the brewery's collection of vintage delivery vehicles. Other tour highlights include visiting the brewhouse with its 100-year-old mash tuns, tasting water from the well and sampling a selection of Kentish ales.

M CLARK Swimming Pools made a splash at the annual industry awards after picking up two bronze medals.

The Westerham-based firm collected the trophies in the 'Liner Pools up to £30,000' and 'Liner Pools £30,000 and over' categories at the Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association (SPATA) Awards. After collecting the medals, Luke Clark said: "We are delighted to be acknowledged for the work the team has put in over the last 12 months."

SPATA managing director Chris Hayes said: "This year was our 50th anniversary and the awards once again created tough competition for the judges, with a shortlist of 85 entries across 22 categories."

FOOD firm Ardo UK has taken on five new staff after securing a frozen pizza contract.

The frozen fruit and vegetable specialist has allocated space for 2.5 million of Berlin-based Freiberger's pizzas at their cold store in Charing, near Ashford. Ardo's supply chain director Jon Barnes, pictured right, said: "We are delighted to have secured such a huge and prestigious contract and have taken on five more staff as a result, which is great. Freiberger had to move all its stock from the previous storage company in a short space of time and luckily we were able to accommodate this."

Ardo's cold store has mobile racking and capacity for 20,000 pallets. The management systems are fully computerised with individual pallet lot control, scanning and temperature control. The 24-hour operating service enables deliveries to be accepted any time of the day or night.

SWALE Heating saw a 100 per cent rise in emergency callouts over the festive period.

The firm's 24-hour call centre dealt with more than 57,000 calls in December, up from 28,000 in December, 2009. A spokesman said: "The number of calls was extraordinarily high and could be partly due to the economic climate as well as the cold weather. People are putting off boiler servicing – but this is a dangerous false economy."

Swale Heating was established in 1972 and has a workforce of 419 operating throughout the South East.



RIVALS: DHB's Bob Goldfield (inset left) and People's Port backer MP Charlie Elphicke (inset right) have opposing views of the Dover sell-off

Port's rival bidders agree quick decision is needed

By **SIMON ROBINSON**

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

RIVAL parties in the proposed Port of Dover sell-off have called on the Coalition Government to make a quick decision regarding the future of the Kent asset.

Ministers are set to rule on whether to allow Dover Harbour Board (DHB) to sell the port to private investors.

If they decided against, it would leave the door open for the innovative People's Port Trust scheme to step in with a £200 million offer.

Both DHB and Dover and Deal Tory MP Charlie Elphicke, who launched the People's Port bid, said they were keen for a decision to be made quickly.

"The Government is deciding on whether to

agree to the sale," said Mr Elphicke. "It's a decision for the ministers and, of course, I hope it can be reached quickly."

DHB chief executive Bob Goldfield said: "Naturally we would welcome a decision in order to deliver on our aspirations for the future of the Port of Dover, providing the means to invest in its future development and to assist the regeneration of Dover through the creation of a new Port of Dover Community Trust."

The sale was first touted last year, when the Labour government placed the port on a list of public assets which could be sold off to help tackle the country's deficit.

The Harbour Board voluntarily submitted a scheme for consideration which looked to secure private investment, although the former government stressed it had no plans to force through privatisation.

At the same time Mr Elphicke launched the

People's Port bid, which would hand greater control back to the town, with every resident offered a share of the port for £10.

A Dover People's Port Trust was established and a £200m offer put to government. Mr Elphicke said some £200m had already been raised "in the City" and interest has been cited from businesses.

Overall financing includes the £200m plus £50m for the regeneration of the port zone, £50m for investment in infrastructure and £100m for developments over the next five years.

Ferry operators P&O, Seafrance and DFDS – the port's key customers – have all given their backing. Dame Vera Lynn and community leaders have also pledged their support.

But DHB said the People's Port plan was "not credible" and although the objectives were the same as the harbour board's, the trust appeared to have no business plan.

- SMALL-business owners are being invited to attend a free buffet hosted by Business Network International at Canterbury Golf Club on Monday, February 21. BNI was founded in 1986 and has 100,000 members across 40 countries, and more than 1,000 in Kent. The informal meeting starts at 7.30pm. To book, call 01227 728027.

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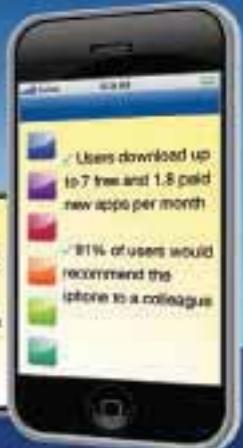
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By SIMON ROBINSON

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

THOUSANDS of training and volunteering opportunities are set to be made available to the unemployed, the Government has announced.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Iain Duncan Smith said he hoped the scheme would help willing out-of-work people take their first steps back into employment.

The plan will see advisers from youth charity the Prince's Trust and local government voluntary organisations move in to Job Centre Plus offices to make job-seekers of all ages aware of the volunteering and training opportunities in their area. A Memorandum of Understanding formalising the partnership between Job Centre Plus and the trust was signed by the respective chief executives on Monday.

Iain Duncan Smith said: "I am delighted that this partnership with the Prince's Trust and local voluntary sector organisations across the country will mean thousands of volunteering opportunities for job-seekers. For some it will be a chance to get some valuable experience and gain skills after years without work."

"I have long been a vocal advocate of empowering grass roots organisations, as I believe they have the dedication, experience and specialist knowledge to get Britain working again."

Prince's Trust chief executive Martina Milburn said: "With youth unemployment at a record high, it is more important than ever to help young people into jobs."

"This partnership will help us reach thousands more disadvantaged young people, giving them the skills and confidence to break out of long-term unemployment and poverty."

"Transforming these young lives will have a huge impact on their families and communities,



IAIN DUNCAN SMITH

as well as on Britain's economy."

Prince's Trust advisers and local volunteering centres will start to appear in Job Centres in the next few weeks, with a national roll out from April, where possible.

Response from the voluntary sector:

"Volunteering is hugely important to the Citizens Advice service. We have more than 21,000 volunteers in bureaux throughout England and Wales providing vital services to our clients. We welcome any initiative which supports best practice in volunteer recruitment and are pleased to support Jobcentre Plus's new scheme which will introduce many more people to the benefits of volunteering."

Julia Dennis, Citizens Advice volunteer development manager

"We would be keen to welcome these volunteers to our shops and feel it's a win-win for both parties. They will be supporting us in raising vital funds for vulnerable children and we will be giving them valuable work experience, hopefully leading to future employment."

John Ellis, Barnardo's deputy director for volunteering UK

"Volunteering England welcomes the renewal of this agreement between Jobcentre Plus and The Prince's Trust. Volunteering has a central role in supporting people seeking to find a new job, in enhancing and evidencing their work-related skills and, often, in helping develop new interests in their career. Volunteering England has supported the building of the key relationships at local level between Jobcentre Plus and the local Volunteer Centre. The renewal of this agreement between JCP and The Prince's Trust promises to strengthen relationships among volunteering organisations and that will be good for communities and for JCP customers."

Mike Locke, Volunteering England's director of public affairs

"The National Council for Voluntary Youth Services' network of more than 180 members consistently provide valuable and life changing opportunities for young people across England. "With youth unemployment at its

highest for a generation, all organisations involved need to work together to provide effective skills training so

that young people can get ahead in this incredibly competitive jobs market. We know from experience that it's crucial for young people to be signposted to the right opportunity at the right time and are pleased to support Jobcentre Plus in this initiative."

Susanne Rauprich, chief executive, National Council for Voluntary Youth Services

"We really welcome this opportunity for the sector and Jobcentre Plus to work closer together and gain a better understanding of each other. However, this needs to be more than just about volunteering – the third sector delivers fantastic services with proven success at getting the hardest to reach clients back into employment. These agreements must recognise this and we would encourage Jobcentre Plus to actively make the space and for organisations to seize this opportunity in order to make it a real success at a time when it is most needed."

Sir Stephen Bubb, chief executive, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations

"This is a good example of the public and voluntary sectors working together to support the vital work of voluntary and community organisations. With space being at such a premium in the current climate, we hope that as many organisations as possible will be able to take advantage of this new opportunity."

Sir Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

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BUSINESS WEEK SPOTLIGHT

LEGAL SERVICES

Prepare for pensions overhaul

The state pension system is set to undergo a radical overhaul with the introduction of legislative changes and new laws from 2012. Here, **ALAN RAMSEY**, from Whitehead Monckton's investment management department, runs through some of the key changes for both employers and employees



PENSION reform is coming. Why? Put simply, we're all living too long and the Government believes we aren't saving enough for retirement.

There will be far more pensioners in future and those pensioners will live longer than before.

This will put a massive strain on an already creaking state pension system. Recent legislative changes to the state pension scheme mean people are being forced to wait longer before they collect their pension and the Government is proposing to bring in new laws from 2012 that will have a significant impact on every employer and employee in the UK.

The framework for these new laws is already in place in the shape of the Pensions Act 2008.

The key points are:

- Employers will, for the first time, be required to automatically enrol eligible employees into a pension scheme.
- Employers will, for the first time, be required to pay pension contributions for any employees who join and stay in the pension scheme.
- The UK regulator of work-based pension schemes (the Pensions Regulator) will police and enforce these new laws.
- Even where a company already has an existing workplace pension scheme, they may have to make changes so that it complies with the new laws.
- Employers can either use their own pension scheme to comply with these new laws or rely on a Government-built scheme – the National

| Date | Total minimum contribution | Minimum employer contribution | Minimum difference to be made up by employee % (gross)* |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Oct 2012-Sept 2016 | 2% | 1% | 1% |
| Oct 2016-Sept 2017 | 5% | 2% | 3% |
| Oct 2017 onwards | 8% | 3% | 5% |

* The minimum difference includes tax relief available on employee contributions

Employment Savings Trust (NEST) scheme.

Both employers and employees will have to pay into the pension scheme, although the minimum amounts (as a percentage of qualifying earnings) are being introduced on a phased basis – as shown in the table above.

Once enrolled, an employee will have the option of opting out of the scheme, although doing so will also mean losing out on the employer's contributions.

The new rules are being staged over four years from 2012, with larger companies (800-plus staff) being affected first, smaller companies (fewer than 50 staff) last.

If you are an employer, now would be an excellent time to review any pension arrangements you have in place for your employees.

If you do not have a scheme in place for your

employees, you should think about how NEST will be implemented in your workplace and how it will affect your long-term cash flow.

The Pensions Regulator website (www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk) has more information on the subject, or find an independent financial adviser at www.unbiased.co.uk. If you are an employee there is probably no action you need to take now. However, reviewing your retirement arrangements is always worthwhile.

• *The information provided is based on current understanding of the relevant legislation and regulations and may be subject to alteration as a result of changes in legislation or practice. The information is based on current understanding of the Pensions Acts 2007 and 2008.*



VANDA JAMES: High regard

Vanda leads the ASB family team

TUNBRIDGE Wells and District Law Society president Vanda James has joined ASB Law to head up the family team.

Managing partner Andrew Clinton said: "We're delighted that Vanda is joining us. She is very highly regarded and her particular expertise in dealing with complex matrimonial and financial matters for high net worth individuals will add an extra dimension to our team."

A member of Resolution and an accredited member of the Law Society Family Law Panel, Ms James is also a qualified collaborative lawyer and regularly works with other collaborative lawyers across the South East and London.

ASB Law has offices in Maidstone and Crawley, Sussex, with 22 Partners and 150 legal and support staff providing a range of specialist services to businesses, public sector bodies and individual clients.

Free advice open days

EMPLOYMENT law, recruitment and VAT are among the topics to be covered at a series of free business advice open days.

The day-long workshops are being offered by HM Revenue and Customs.

The first takes place in Dartford on Tuesday, with the second being held in Swanley on Thursday, February 17, and the last in Boughton-Under-Blean, near Faversham, the following day.

A spokesman said: "The open days bring together a range of organisations under one roof in a one-stop-shop format.

"They offer practical advice and support to those already running a business, or anyone

thinking of starting one. Each event features an exhibition and a series of informative seminars."

Visitors may attend the main exhibition at any time, but seminar places need to be booked in advance. For more information, call 0845 603 2691.

Dates and venues: Tuesday, February 15, 9.30am to 4pm, Temple Hill Community Centre, Temple Hill Square, Dartford; Thursday, February 17, 9.30am to 5pm, Alexandra Suite and Clock Tower Pavilion, St Mary's Road, Swanley; Friday, February 18, 9.45am to 2.30pm, Boughton-under-Blean village hall, off Bull Lane.

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NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on commercial property/facilities

Help us build an extension to Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm

Vattenfall, a leading European energy company, would like to extend its Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm (also known by local people as Whitstable or Herne Bay Wind Farm) with up to 17 wind turbines. This Statement of Community Consultation explains how you can comment on its proposed application for a development consent order to the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

Kentish Flats Extension – the proposal

The existing Kentish Flats wind farm with 30 wind turbines has been producing green electricity since 2005. The proposed extension is around 8km off Herne Bay and will be to the south and west of the current project. It could add up to 17 wind turbines in 7.7 km² of sea, in water depths between three and five metres at lowest tide.

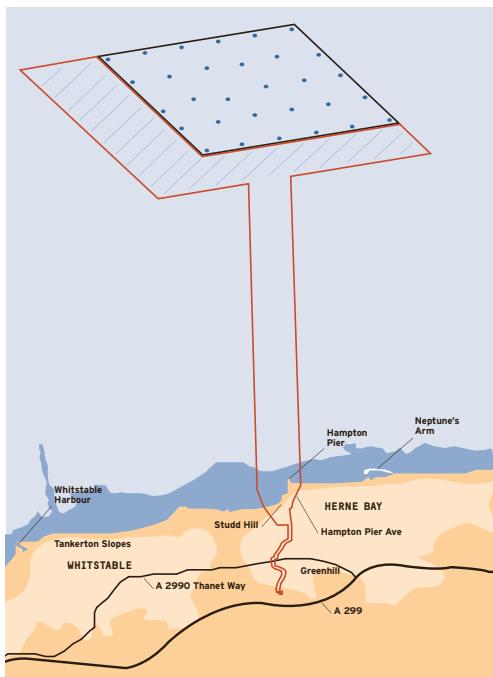
The wind turbines for the extension will have a similar capacity to those currently used, with a tip height up to 145 metres. The turbines will be placed on top of large steel tube foundations which will be driven up to 35 metres into the seabed, similar to the current scheme.

Underwater cables will connect turbines to the existing offshore substation from which one or two underwater cables will run to shore at Hampton Pier, Herne Bay. Onshore, the new cables will follow the route of the existing cabling along the Hampton Pier Road under paved roads to the Red House Farm substation south of Herne Bay. KFE will not require any changes to the power grid.

Due to its scale, Vattenfall must do an assessment, known as EIA, of possible significant environmental effects of the extension.

We are also seeking views from all interests, including the public, on the proposal. We will consult on the whole project and have identified the following as likely to be important:

- Potential cumulative impacts on Red-throated divers in the Thames Estuary
- Visual, landscape and seascape effects
- Impact on fishing, leisure and business interests, including tourism
- Impact of onshore construction on nearby households
- Impact on traffic on roads caused by onshore works



There will be an opportunity to consider these and other points, during the consultation process. We will make available the preliminary findings of our EIA. This initial environmental information will also describe any alternatives we are considering and measures to minimise impacts.

Why Vattenfall wants to extend Kentish Flats

Kentish Flats Extension (KFE) could generate up to 150,000 megawatt hours per year of clean electricity, if 17 turbines are deployed. This is equivalent to the total annual electricity needs of up to 35,000 UK homes.

The UK's delivery of its offshore wind potential could supply the equivalent of 30% of the country's electricity demand. Offshore wind in the UK will help European green energy targets and the reduction of emissions that cause climate change.

Vattenfall is committed to major reductions in carbon emissions from its activities as an energy company. Wind power will it meet that commitment.

About Vattenfall

Vattenfall is a leading European energy company and is Europe's fifth largest generator of electricity and the continent's largest producer of heat. Across the north of Europe we operate many wind farms on land and in the sea. This includes Kentish Flats and Thanet Offshore Wind Farm, which is the world's largest offshore wind farm.

Statement of Community Consultation and the Infrastructure Planning Commission

In 2008 new planning laws changed the way projects like KFE are dealt with. Under this new regime the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) controls the planning process for nationally significant infrastructure projects. Vattenfall will submit its proposal to the IPC following a consultation with both the community and organisations including the local authorities, Marine Management Organisation and Natural England.

We will carefully consider all responses received and when the application is made we will report to the IPC and all responders detailing how we have taken the communities' views into account.

The IPC will ask Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council for their opinion of the Vattenfall community consultation. The Councils' opinion will play an important part in whether the IPC accepts the application.

Other planning matters

When the IPC decides on KFE it will take into account any energy related National Policy Statements (NPSs) published by the UK Government. These are currently in draft but will be finalised before a decision is made. These include: Energy (EN-1); Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3); and, Electricity Network Infrastructure (EN-5).

Vattenfall is unaware of any other applications to the IPC or local authorities or consultations which are relevant to this proposal.

You can view a document which describes our approach to the consultation on the Vattenfall website.

If you need help to understand this proposal and the IPC process you can contact Planning Aid by calling 0870 850 9806 or visiting www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid/planning_aid_in_your_area/south_east/

PUBLIC INFORMATION & CONSULTATION DAYS

| Date & Time | Location |
|-------------------|--|
| 23 Feb 2011 2-8pm | Kings Hall Beacon Hill, Herne Bay, CT6 5BA |
| 24 Feb 2011 2-8pm | Whitstable Castle Tower Hill, Whitstable, CT5 2BW |

How you can find out more and tell Vattenfall what you think

Visit the website:
www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm

Email: mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com

Call: (07545 339 299

Post: Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall

Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB

Or use the feedback form and questionnaire available at the Public Information Days and public places where project documents are lodged.

This community consultation starts on 31 January, 2011 and you must reply in writing by 4 March, 2011 using the methods described above.

Please note that responses may be made public.

Help us build the best possible wind farm - get in touch

Vattenfall has already started its consultation but the formal community consultation runs from 31 January 2011 to 4 March 2011. Kentish Flats is already an important feature in the area and we value our good relations with local people.

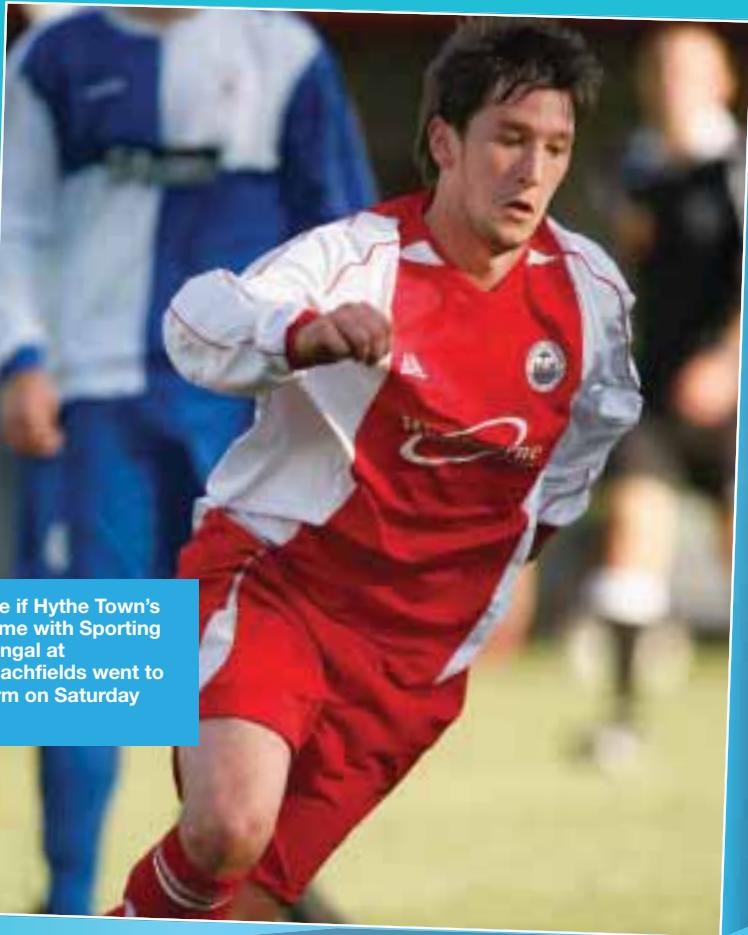
Please look at our proposals, the preliminary environmental information, maps and other documents. All of these will be available on our website for the duration of the application and, during the consultation period at the locations noted below.

Your views will be taken into account as we complete the assessments of the KFE, finalise the design of the wind farm, and before we submit an application to the IPC.

We will also do the following to help the Thames Estuary coastal community, especially around Herne Bay and Whitstable, and other interests, express their views on our plans:

- Contact by letter homes and businesses likely to be affected by our plans
- Hold public information and consultation days in Herne Bay and Whitstable with specialist staff on hand
- Advertise our plans in local papers
- Advertise the Statement of Community Consultation in local papers in the Thames Estuary region
- Hold separate workshops and meetings with fishermen, other users of the sea and the region's businesses
- Continue meetings with the Area Member Panels and Parish Councils of Whitstable and Herne Bay
- Maintain contact with all those who have shown an interest in the project
- Continue working with local media to publicise Vattenfall's plans
- Place all relevant documents on the Vattenfall website, including a questionnaire
- Work with Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council to inform local interests of our proposals explaining how they can get involved
- Work with both Councils to identify and engage with hard-to-reach groups
- Place the PEI, maps, other relevant documents and envelopes and questionnaires in the Harbour Office, Whitstable Harbour, the Canterbury City Council office in Herne Bay, Medway Council (Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham), Swale Borough Council (Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne), Thanet District Council (Cecil Street, Margate), Maldon District Council (Princes Road, Maldon), Rochford District Council, (3-19 South Street, Rochford) Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (12th Fl, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea), Castle Point Borough Council (Kiln Road, Benfleet)

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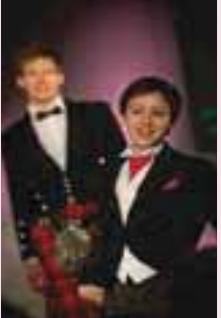
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Sunday 27th February

UKP Leisure Club, Sittingbourne ME10 4DE

Sunday 13th March

Hadlow Manor Hotel, Hadlow, Tonbridge TN11 0JH

Sunday 20th March

Ashford International Hotel, Ashford TN24 8UX

Sunday 3rd April

Ramada Hotel, Hollingbourne, Maidstone ME17 1RE

Thursday 14th April 5.00pm – 9.00pm

The Kent Showground, Detling, Maidstone ME14 3JF

Sunday 1st May 10.30am – 4.00pm

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The Pegwell Bay Hotel, Pegwell Road, Ramsgate **01843 599390**
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Welcome to Pure weddings



It seems 2011 is shaping up to be the year of the wedding.

Spearheaded by the eagerly anticipated royal wedding in April between Kate

Middleton and Prince William, the news agenda will focus on all the pomp and ceremony that the biggest day of your life brings with it.

But for many this year, the royal wedding is merely an aperitif to their own nuptials, and whether you are planning to tie the knot on a grand scale with hundreds of guests, or a more intimate setting with just close family present, there is so much to prepare to make it perfect.

Which is where Pure Weddings comes in. We are your indispensable guide to making your wedding match your dream.

Because Kent is the ideal county in which to mark your momentous occasion in pure style.

Steeped in history and oozing picturesque venues and locations, the Garden of England has everything you need.

And within these pages you will find some of the finest local suppliers of goods and services to make your day one to remember forever.

From caterers to photographers, venues to suppliers, Pure Weddings is your ideal starting point – or a generator of ideas if your big day is just around the corner.

Plus we take a look at some of the traditions surrounding weddings, a special look at royal bride-to-be Kate Middleton's links to Kent and a special look at some honeymoon suggestions – ranging from a gentle boat trip through France to more exotic beach and city locations.

We are blessed to live in a county teeming with wonderful opportunities – so make the most of them and make your special day extra special.



Cover photography by Matthew Stansfield

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Lucky Days

LHERE is perhaps no other ceremony in the world which continues to surround itself with such a diverse range of superstitions, both old and new, as that of a wedding.

After all, whether it's the requirement to wear 'something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, and a silver sixpence in her shoe' or simply for the groom not to catch a glimpse of his bride-to-be on the morning of the big day, it can prove something of a real minefield.

So what are some of the main ones, where do they originate, and should you take any notice of them?

We take a look at the top 10...

• White weddings

Despite popular belief, a white wedding dress does not represent virginity. As ever, it is trend set. Queen Victoria was the first, wearing a white gown that set the trend for years later.

Just don't be tempted, brides-to-be, to create your own wedding outfit – apparently it's bad luck!

• Carrying the bride over the threshold

An oldie but a goodie. And practical too. The bride should be lifted into the home for one reason only – to prevent her from tripping. To stumble in that first significant step is seen as a bad omen.

• Engagement ring

We have the Romans to thank for this one. Following their conversion to Christianity they introduced the practice of wearing a ring on the third finger of the left hand – a finger the Greeks believed was connected to the heart.

• Throwing the bouquet

Once upon a time, in medieval times, guests attending weddings believed the bride's outfit brought good luck so would look to remove parts of it. Understandably, this didn't always go down well, so over the years it has been refined. Rather than the clothes being left in



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tatters, there was a move to carefully hand out parts of the outfit. Today only the bouquet remains and therefore is tossed into the crowd. Legend has it that whatever single woman catches the bouquet inherits the luck and will be next to walk up the aisle.

• Attaching cans/shoes to the back of the bride and groom's car

Dating back to medieval times, the noise the cans create are said to ward off evil spirits. Meanwhile, tying shoes to the car dates back to Tudor times when guests would hurl shoes at the happy couple with good luck bestowed upon them if the missiles hit the carriage in which they were riding.

• Flowers

Another medieval tradition which stems back to when a knight would wear his wife-to-be's colours as a sign of his love. Today the groom should wear a flower that appears in the bridal bouquet.

• Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue...

Perhaps the most famous of all superstitions, this originates from Victorian times. The 'old' represents the bride's life before marriage, the 'new' symbolising new beginnings. The 'borrowed' brings good luck from someone happily married. The 'blue' harks back to an ancient Israeli tradition, where the bride wore a blue ribbon as a symbol of her fidelity. The often forgotten 'sixpence in the shoe' final line suggests a prosperous future.

• Bridesmaid

Effectively the bodyguard to the bride, the

bridesmaid has traditionally dressed in a similar style to the bride since Roman times. Then it was felt similar clothing would confuse evil spirits intent on inflicting bad luck to the bride.

• Best man

The origins of this particular tradition may not sit too comfortably with the modern woman. There are two tales to the origin of having a best man. The first is that centuries ago, selecting a wife was a rather more brutal affair. If her family did not approve, well, the man would forcefully take her. When trying to tie the knot, this rather extreme step would, obviously, not sit too well with the bride-to-be's family... so the best man would be there to fend off any attacks or attempts to grab her back.

The other claim is that in ancient times, when each woman was fought over keenly, men would simply trot over to a neighbouring village and kidnap a poor unfortunate girl. Such was the struggle they may encounter, they would recruit a good friend to provide some extra muscle... and only the best would be good enough... hence the name, best man.

• Father giving his daughter away

Another one which may be frowned upon in today's society. But once upon a time daughters were considered the property of their father and the marriage was more a deal than a partnership; the father effectively transferring ownership to the groom.

The most significant thing to remember?

You make your own luck.



Location Location...

LHERE is so much to take into account when preparing for a wedding – there's choosing the dress, arranging the flowers, the rings, and of course, the small detail of the catering and just who to invite.

So it is sometimes easy to forget the basics – actually choosing what sort of ceremony you want and how you go about organising it.

For example, is your dream to be married in your local church? Or perhaps you would rather plump for a civil ceremony, staged in a location of your choosing?

The options for couples in Kent are now wide and varied.

At the last count there were well over 200 venues in the county licensed to hold weddings, hotels, civic buildings, even theatres and wild

animal parks.

Or perhaps a lighthouse, a windmill or a treehouse is more your thing. Approved premises aim to appeal to everyone and can add a real twist of individuality – suiting the moods and style of the couple.

But outside of church services – which will require the couple to liaise with the religious venue of their choosing – Kent County Council is responsible for providing civil marriages in the county and licensing the premises.

These services are provided by the Kent Registration Service and have no religious elements.

Indeed, it is becoming increasingly popular for couples to wed somewhere capable of accommodating all guests for both the vows and the reception afterwards. With many offering the option of rooms to stay in for the night, too, they can prove the ideal one-stop location.

They prove particularly popular with guests, too, who can head to one location and enjoy the venue for the entire day.

Even some of the most prestigious venues will allow couples and their guests exclusive use of the facilities – so you don't have to share your big day with visitors.

Alternatively, you can simply get married in a register office – which most major towns boast – and then select the ideal venue afterwards.

So you've decided to tie the knot and want to arrange a service. What next?

If you wish to be married in a Church of England venue, you should first speak to the vicar. You will generally only be able to do this if you or your partner live in the parish. If the vicar is able and willing to marry you, arrangements will be made for the Banns (a traditional announcement made in church) to be called on three Sundays before the day of your ceremony or for a common licence to be issued.

The vicar will also register the marriage and

Continued on page 8



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there is generally no need to involve the local register office.

If you wish to be married by religious ceremony, other than in a Church of England venue, you should first arrange to see the minister or other person in charge of marriages at the building. However, the church or religious building in question must normally be in the registration district where you or your partner lives or be your usual place of worship. It will also be necessary for both of you to give legal preliminaries (notice of marriage) at the register office in the district(s) where you live. A registrar may also need to attend and register the ceremony.

If you want a civil service, the first step is to choose the venue, date and time. Services can be conducted between 8am and 5pm by registration staff – and the earlier you book it up and specify your venue, the better.

Remember, the most popular venues will be in constant demand, and summer weekends in particular will be booked up well in advance.

To arrange a marriage ceremony in a venue the couple should visit it and complete their booking procedures. The wedding co-ordinator will then contact the local register office. Couples will then receive a letter from the office advising them about the legal preliminaries to marriage, what they need to do next, and the documents and fees that are required.

Fees are payable for the Notice of Marriage,

attendance of registration staff at the ceremony, a rehearsal or pre-marriage meeting (optional) and the marriage certificate.

Documents you will need to provide include: passports or birth certificates, a divorce decree (if previously married), a dissolution order (if previously in a civil partnership), plus certificates or other documentation to confirm marital and civil partnership status, residence, nationality and names.

You may need to provide other details if required.

Current ceremony fees for Monday to Friday are £386. Weekends and bank holidays are £524 and if you want to tie the knot on Christmas

Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day it is £600. There is an additional booking confirmation fee of £50. All these prices are subject to change, so check first.

There will be an extra charge for legal preliminaries (notices to be given by both people), and for certificates and a rehearsal if they are required. Speak to the ceremonies team regarding these charges.

A ceremony amendment fee of £20 is chargeable for any changes to the ceremony arrangements.

If you cancel your booking, a cancellation fee of £40 will be payable.

If, of course, you would rather marry abroad

then you will need to check with the authorities of the country you are getting married in as to what legal preliminaries are required of you.

This will vary from country to country and depend on your own nationality.

Some countries require you to give notice of marriage in this country - this is known as a certificate of no impediment. This may be obtained by giving legal preliminaries (notice of marriage) to your local register office.

A marriage solemnised in accordance with the local law of a foreign country cannot be registered in this country.

If possible, you should register your marriage with the British Embassy/Consulate in the country in which you get married, at the time you get married.

This means that you can then obtain a copy of your marriage certificate in this country if you ever need one. It is always advisable to obtain more than one marriage certificate when being married abroad.

Whilst legally recognised, marriages abroad cannot be registered for British subjects in the UK. However, it may be possible for the record of an overseas marriage to be lodged at the General Register Office. See the General Register Office website www.gro.gov.uk for further details.

If you are in any doubt, contact your local register office and they will advise you.

And after you've done all that, of course, there is just the small matter of that guest list.



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A Secret History

APRIIL 29 will be a day quite unlike any other this year. The focus of the world will be on London, and across Kent there will be celebrations to mark the marriage of Prince William and his long-time love, Kate Middleton.

The pair announced their big day back in November, and since then anticipation has been building – as well as April 29 becoming a hugely popular day for couples to tie the knot.

But few are aware that Miss Middleton, 28, has Kent ancestry. Or that she may have some royal blood already.



Catherine Elizabeth Middleton, to give her full name, breaks the three-and-a-half century record set when Anne Hyde wed the Duke of York, who was later crowned James II, in 1685.

Researchers William Adams Reitwiesner and Michael J Wood have compiled her family tree and it has emerged Kate had plenty of family in Kent.

Her great-great-grandfather Frederick John Glassborow was born in Nelson Terrace, Haggerston, Middlesex, on February 22, 1859.

He was a commercial clerk, rising to become a

shipping manager in 1920.

Glassborow died at Homeleigh, Lismore Road in Beltinge, near Herne Bay, on December 21, 1932.

A great-great-great-grandfather was building labourer and brickmaker John Goldsmith, born in Maidstone, in 1827. He died tragically from internal strangulation, a bowel condition, in Islington in June, 1888.

With details becoming slightly more vague, Kate had a great-great-great-grandfather, again called John Goldsmith, who was born in Kent in 1783. He was in the building trade and was a carpenter – he died around 1851.

He was married to Rebecca, who was born in Maidstone in 1796 and died from bronchitis while at Church Street, Tovil, on December 29, 1869.

Under a section labelled 'plausible continuation of the ancestry of Kate Middleton' by the researchers, she has under 14 'greats' some noble blood in the guise of Thomas Boleyn, 1st Earl of Wiltshire, who was born in 1477 at Hever and died at Hever Castle, on March 12, 1538 or 1539.

The father of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII, was a diplomat and politician whose grandfather Geoffrey Boleyn, a wealthy mercer, had purchased the Kent manor home.

Boleyn was the maternal grandfather of Queen Elizabeth I.

Hever said it was fascinating to be told by KoS of their apparent Royal link.

Hever historian

Anna Spender said: "Thomas Boleyn is Kate's 14th-generation great-grandparent. He had three children together with his wife Elizabeth Howard: Mary, mistress of Henry VIII; Anne, second wife of Henry VIII and mother of Queen Elizabeth I; and George. The children spent their childhood at Hever Castle.

"In 2011, Hever Castle is holding an exhibition of families who lived at the castle over the centuries, including the Boleyn family.

"Prince William and his fiancée, Kate Middleton, are distantly related, 12th cousins once removed, and are descended from the Boleyn family, who owned Hever Castle in Kent between 1462 and 1538.

"Thomas Boleyn is Prince William and Kate's 14th generation grandfather. They are descended from Mary Boleyn's

side of the family.

"Mary Boleyn's daughter, Catherine Carey, married Francis Knollys. Their daughter Elizabeth had important connections: not only was Anne Boleyn her great-aunt, but she was a cousin once removed and Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth I.

"In 1578 Elizabeth Knollys married Thomas Leighton, a diplomat and soldier, and together the couple had three children – a son Thomas, and daughters Elizabeth and Anne.

"It is from Elizabeth Leighton's side that Kate descends, while William's ancestor is her sister Anne."



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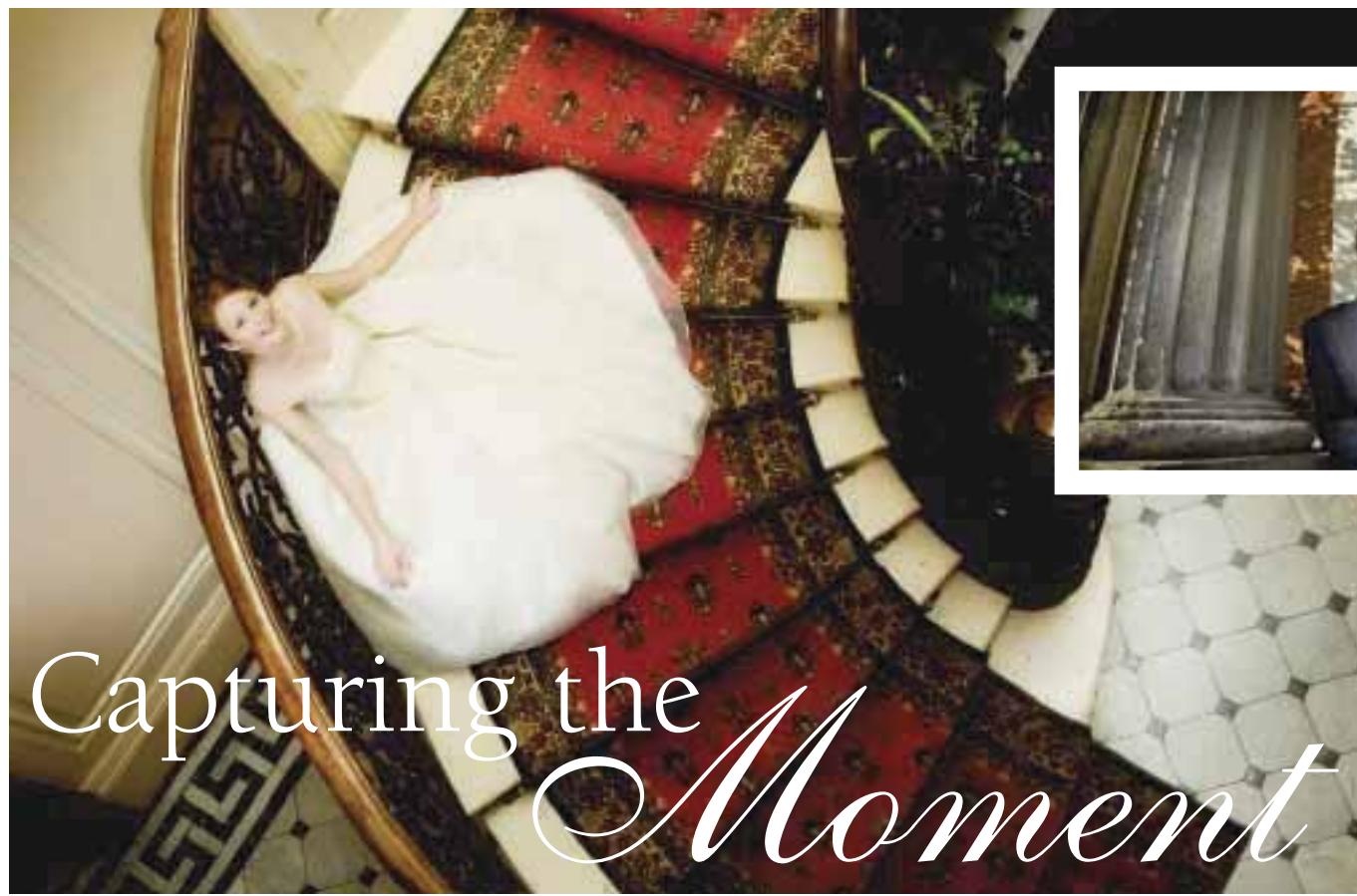
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together, and the memorable occasion it was.

But there are wedding photographs, and there are wedding photographs – the trick is to get ones that capture the very essence of the occasion, the sense of joy and fun which surrounds it.

So just how is best to achieve that? Tim Stubbings is a professional, fully-qualified, wedding photographer and over the years ensures that every couple are delighted with the outcome. We put some readers' questions to him to find out just what was the secret to a set of photographs to make sure they are picture-perfect.

Q Every wedding is different, so how do you ensure your day is captured in a way that suits you and your personalities?

A Everyone has an ego - some are big and some are not so big - but whatever our personality might be, we all have a view on how things should be done.

When someone designs a wedding dress, you employ their services because of their style and approach, but as the paying customer you still have the right to have input into the creative process. You're not a dress designer or maker yourself, but your contribution is critical to the success of the final product.

Your photographer should be like this – short-listed by you because of their style, booked by you because of their approach, personality and attitude, and successfully used by you because you were able to work in partnership with them. It's still your wedding. The pictures should

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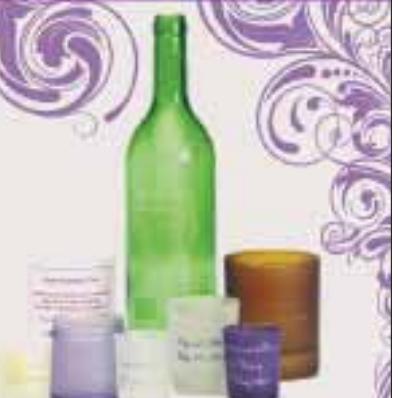
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reflect your personalities but with the signature of the photographer. Photography is as much about people as it is cameras, listening more than talking and watching more than being the centre of attention.

Q How important is it for a wedding photographer to have a good relationship with the bride and groom before the big day?

A The ability to get on with everyone – not just the bride and groom – is key to being successful in a people-facing business like photography. Without wishing to put myself out of a job, I would go further and say that it's even more important than technical ability or creative flair, which should be a given.

The stronger the working relationship and greater the rapport, the more likely it is that great pictures will be taken because it won't feel like hard work. It's a bit like a conversation – you want it to flow and be stimulating, two-way and interesting, not stilted, awkward or uncomfortable. Photographers must be good at making people feel at ease, quickly.

I've found myself standing in for a best man, picking up the flowers from the florist, and helping a guest cut the labels off his new suit! Your photographer needs to engage with people. You'll be happier and more relaxed knowing that you can trust your photographer to get the best out of you and your friends and family. Let's not forget that it should be fun too and it's easier to have fun around people you like.

Q We have a lot of photos of various groups and couples that we would like to capture on our wedding day. However, I am really worried that our guests will get bored with all the waiting around. Between us and our photographer, how can we ensure the photos are taken quickly?

A Although there's been a move away from lots of group pictures in recent years, it doesn't mean that they can't happen both quickly and in a way that doesn't impact you or your guests negatively.

The three parts of the group shots system I use are:

Ensure your guests have something else to do whilst the pictures are being taken. Most people don't notice the photography when they're given a glass or two and something to nibble on!

Agree in advance that a member or two of your wedding party – not necessarily the best man – will

help the photographer get people together. They need to know at least one side of the family by sight.

Separate the area for formal group photography from the rest of the party – but not so far that time is wasted ferrying people over a great distance. Groups don't have to be formal – so have some smaller friends' groups

schedule for the groups and the photography itself is the fast bit – it's getting everyone together that takes the time, especially where there are 100-plus guests.

The posing of the groups – who stands where – is for the photographer to arrange. Enlisting help in marshalling and finding people is



and couple shots later in the evening.

Your photographer will work through your schedule before the wedding and identify any issues arising. For larger weddings it might be necessary to have an assistant or second photographer for a few hours on the day to help with the groups or to be shooting candid/documentary images at the same time.

Q Our photographer has asked that someone be available to help organise our guests for the photos. I feel a little put out by this, but my friend has said it is quite normal. What's your opinion?

A Your photographer is ultimately responsible for working with you to agree a shoot list of your day and then for keeping this on track as far as is possible (allowing for delays or events beyond anyone's control).

With reportage (documentary) and candid (not posed) photography pretty much as standard now, a photographer working alone will normally and quite understandably ask for help from an usher or best man to help guests get into place for any group photos. Without such help the photographer would have to leave their position and go looking for people and there lies the danger for the photography to drag on too long. Normally there is a tight

you got any suggestions for how we can get great photos even in blowy conditions?

A The seasons are full of surprises – I've photographed in summer torrential rain and beautiful golden light in winter – but it need not stop you getting great pictures.

Meeting your photographer at your venue will uncover options to keep you outside but shielded from the wind, identifying several places for portraits and groups. By careful lighting and positioning the two of you slightly inside, you can 'bring the outside in'. Using open doors or large windows as backdrops can look wonderful. Ask your photographer what experience they have of low natural light or subtle artificial light (not simply a flash on top of the camera).

Don't worry if it's overcast. Cloudy skies create smooth, even lighting which is flattering for skin tones and close-ups.

Finally, how about turning the wind to your advantage and to creative effect? By combining a dramatic backdrop and a bride with her veil blowing behind her, shielded by the groom's body, you can create an intimate, exciting portrait.

• Tim Stubbings is one of Canon UK's preferred photographers and a qualified member of the BIPP. His main areas of work are wedding, lifestyle and commercial photography. He also trains photographers in camera skills, lighting and composition and is a guest lecturer at Canterbury Christchurch University.

Website: www.timstubbings.co.uk

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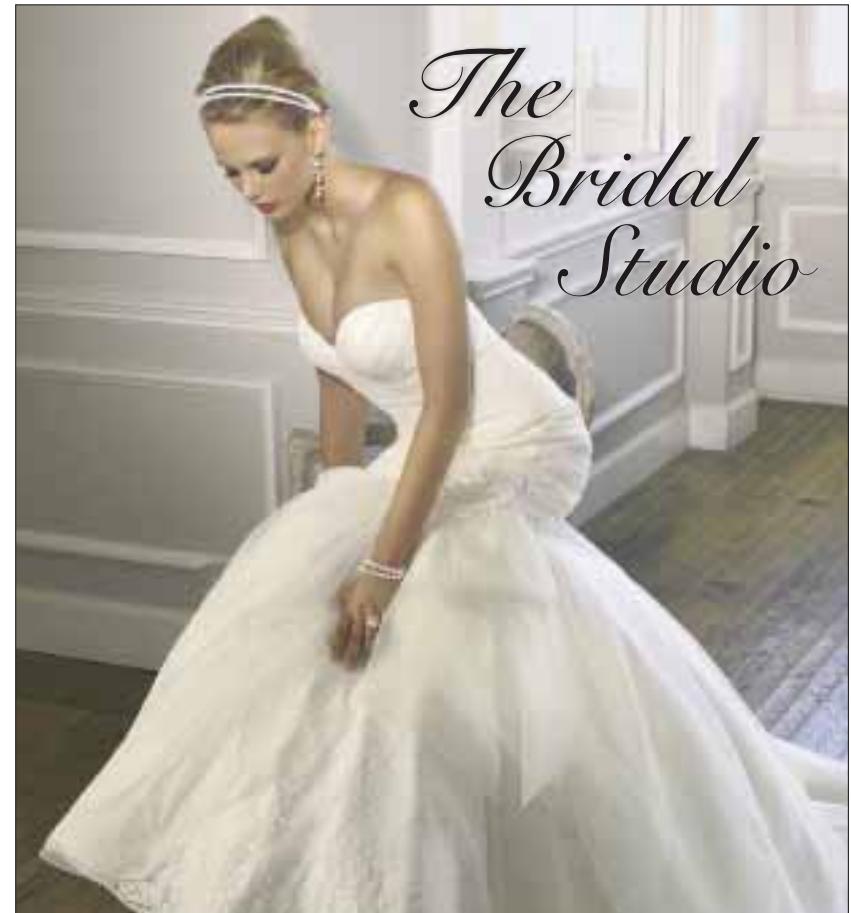
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ELECTING your honeymoon can be almost as time-consuming as planning the big day itself – and as costly.

After all, you want your wedding to be followed up by a memorable holiday – a chance to unwind after months of tense preparations, and the opportunity to enjoy being man and wife for the first time.

So the question is just what do you go for? Do you push the boat out and go for a once-in-a-lifetime experience? Or perhaps simply opt for simplicity and romance to make it one to remember?

More and more couples are even tying the knot abroad with just close family and friends, and combining the two.

For some, an active holiday with a packed agenda – a real adventure discovering far-off

lands and ancient civilisations – is the ideal way to mark such a momentous part of your life. For others, a romantic cruise or a lazy beach holiday fits the bill.

We take a look at a range of possible options for you – from the Salsa rhythms of Cuba to a more leisurely boat break in the Dordogne. There's something for every pocket and taste to inspire you...

The classic beach holiday – The Maldives

by Sam Wylie-Harris

With a wave of hotels opening in the Maldives and the introduction of all-inclusive options, paradise no longer comes with a whopping bill at the end of a luxurious seven-night stay.

Savvy holidaymakers can dip their toe in the Indian Ocean and soak up all the usual four-star trappings of an exclusive island resort and still have enough left over to plan a return trip.

Take the Kuramathi resort.

Fringed by lush vegetation and a snaking white sandbank, the resort was relaunched at the end of 2009 and now boasts 50 water villas each with private Jacuzzi, a large split-level sun deck and panoramic view over the lagoon's crystal-blue waters.

Waking up to this fairytale vista, it's not difficult to live out the barefoot dream of a sizzling lifestyle for a week. After a 10-hour flight from London and 20-minute seaplane transfer across turquoise ring-shaped reefs, not even my designer sunglasses and wide-brimmed hat could shade me from the beauty of this tropical island.

Strolling through the ancient Banyan trees and lush vegetation, it's hard to believe there are 290 guest villas in all, some in total isolation and just a few steps from the white sandy beach.

Tranquil, with a total chill factor (if you want it) of sand, sea and surf, a dive centre,

excursions, gym, spa with 16 treatment rooms, nine restaurants and six bars (including a posh Havana cigar bar), the resort offers a romantic holiday with loads of choice.

Every morning before breakfast, my partner and I climbed down the villa's stilts and snorkelled straight from our sundeck into the sea, to be welcomed by glittering parrot and trigger fish.

The huge infinity pool takes centre stage at the bottom tip of the 1.8km island, and the resort has a golf cart service to ferry guests around if you don't fancy the walk. Personally, I think it's far more intimate to take your partner's hand and discover some of Kuramathi's secrets – like the bird sanctuary nestled behind coconut palms.

Blissful days were spent lounging on our sun-drenched private deck. The only daily boardroom decision was where to go for our first pina colada.

In the evening, guests can enjoy a romantic candle-lit meal in the Island Barbecue. This is where we gorged on scallops, char-grilled yellow-fin tuna and wonderful steak. Definitely a five-star dining experience, we were spirited away to gourmet heaven every time we ate there.

Being helpless romantics, we treated ourselves to a "serenade dinner" one night. For a table for two at the end of the Serenade Jetty, the chef prepares a magnificent four-course meal with lobster served by your own private waiter.

TRAVEL: Fact file

Sam Wylie-Harris was a guest of Kuoni, which offers seven nights all-inclusive in a garden villa on Kuramathi Island Resort from £1,327 in 2011, including SriLankan Airlines flights ex-Heathrow, transfers and use of Male airport lounge on return. Select all-inclusive (more dining options) starts at £1,647 per person. Kuoni reservations: 01306 747 008 and www.kuoni.co.uk.

2 Something a little different – Cuba

by Cordelia O'Neill

It's a sweltering evening and through the darkness, musicians drum an intoxicating Salsa rhythm.

Tall palm trees seemingly swing in time as I sip my glass of seven-year-old rum and prepare for a night to remember.

Suddenly the spotlight swings to the two stages, and a flock of girls – the so-called Diosas de Carne, Goddesses of the Flesh – descend from trees in time to the music.

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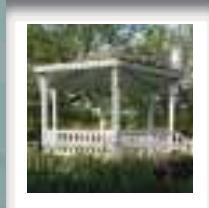
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The music picks up, lights flash on glittering sequinned and feathered costumes, and the world-famous Club Tropicana kicks off another long Havana night.

Launched in 1939 at the Villa Mina, a sprawling six-acre estate on the outskirts of the city, this floor show inspired copycat cabaret in Paris, Las Vegas and New York, and has drawn countless tourists to Cuba's capital for nights of decadence, drama and daiquiris.

But the sequins and feathers hide a darker side of the club, whose history is almost inseparable from the Cuba of the popular imagination - gangsters, gambling and gunshots.

The past is rarely far away on this Caribbean island, which won independence from Spain in 1902.

Apart from the near-constant presence of its revolutionary heroes - Fidel Castro and more photogenic Che Guevara - the island's chequered history is etched into its heart.

Very little is new in Cuba - from Spanish colonial-style town houses (some undergoing restoration, but more falling down stone by stone), to the classic American cars - Chevrolets, Buicks and Cadillacs.

One of the best places to view this irrepressible capital is from the top of the 137-metre-high memorial to the island's most honoured patriot, Jose Marti.

A slow lift takes you to the top of the obelisk, topped with a statue of the poet, journalist and leader of the 1895 rebellion against Spanish rule.

Having paid my respects, I decide to worship the local culture in a slightly less worthy way, and slip into my gold bikini, don a pair of oversized Sophia Loren-style sunglasses and make for the roof-top pool of my hotel - the neo-classical Saratoga.

With the sun beating down and a cocktail in my hand, I have a 270-degree panorama of the city taking in the Capitolio Nacional - a 1929



Cuba's Capitolio Nacional

copy of the Capitol building in Washington - the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Habana Vieja district by the harbour, and the sprawling Centro Habana.

While Western capitalism is firmly resisted, economic necessity and Raoul Castro's modernising reforms ensure Cuba welcomes tourists with open arms - particularly since the collapse of the USSR sank demand for its sugar crop.

Former plantations are slowly being converted into expansive tourist resorts along a shimmering coastline.

A total absence of billboards takes some getting used to. The only advertising allowed by the government tells citizens of their luck in living under progressive economic policies.

In Cuba, a sea-change is coming, albeit slowly. Since Fidel Castro handed over to his brother in 2006, the island has opened itself to the West, and President Obama's election could end the ban on visitors from the US.

3 Something a bit different - Iceland

by Danielle Dwyer

As I peered out of the window as we began our descent into Keflavik Airport, just west of Reykjavik, I had felt as though I was gazing down at the pages of a geography textbook.

A massive expanse of lunar-looking terrain greets visitors as they touch down in Iceland, setting the scene for a country where the landscape is as dramatic as it is varied.

Over the course of our trip we took in spectacular glaciers, a bubbling volcano, tumbling waterfalls and rolling fields. The landscape is striking, albeit curious and bleak in places.

It is impossible to forget that Iceland - nicknamed the land of fire and ice - is a country of extremes.

Earlier this year, that became a harsh reality for millions of holidaymakers as flights across Europe were grounded when Eyjafjallajokull erupted and an ash cloud lingered in the skies for weeks.



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Yet sitting in the grounds of the Hotel Ranga with a steaming mug of hot chocolate in my hands and the now infamous volcano just a short drive away, it was easy to forget the disruption and see only the startling beauty of a country so diverse and dramatic.

Guests braver than me stripped to their bikinis and lazed around in outdoor hot tubs, enjoying the spectacular view - Mount Hekla stands proud on the horizon - and the surprisingly mild climate.

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We were pausing for a mid-afternoon break, having spent the morning driving along Iceland's stunning south coast, visiting waterfalls at Seljalandsfoss and Skogarfoss - just two of hundreds in the country.

Volcano enthusiasts can drive to Eyjafjallajokull from Reykjavik along Route 1 - a journey of roughly 70 miles. It is also possible to fly over the volcano as we did, an experience well worth an afternoon if weather conditions permit.

But there is so much more to Iceland than lava and ash.

It is an over-used cliche that every cloud has a silver lining, but the people of Iceland hope the old adage holds true.

Our guide told us Icelanders are confident the eruption, which caused little disruption in Iceland, will put them on the map, so to speak.

Besides the volcanoes and waterfalls, a trip snowmobiling on one of the country's glaciers is an absolute must. Tour-providers run day-trips from the capital.

Admiring the view of snow-capped mountains and the seemingly endless pristine-white glacier, and taking in the complete silence, it was hard to believe I had travelled just one hour by air from London.

In the summer months, 24 hours of daylight lend themselves to long nights partying in the capital's many pubs and bars. Younger inhabitants take up the challenge with gusto.

By day, the city's atmosphere is casual and relaxed, with a dress code to match. By night, the

stilettos come out and the bar crawls commence, lasting into and beyond the early hours.

But Reykjavik has more to offer than its vibrant nightlife.

In the daytime it is pretty and peaceful, with just enough bustle to create an atmosphere. The capital is small enough to explore by foot, and wherever you are in the city, you are never far from a decent coffee and a spot to sit down and people-watch.

The Jokulsarlon iceberg lagoon, on the south side of Vatnajokull, is a must-see.

The lagoon is a sprawling lake of glacial meltwater into which huge icebergs have floated, having broken away from the glacier.

TRAVEL: Fact file

Danielle Dwyer was a guest of Discover The World, which offers six-night self-drive holidays in Iceland year-round from £808 per person (April and October).

The Arctic Edge package includes Icelandair flights ex-Heathrow, B&B hotel accommodation, including the luxury Hotel Ranga, car rental (unlimited mileage basis and semi-comprehensive insurance). Reservations: **01737 218 800** and www.discover-the-world.co.uk.

4 Boat-tastic

by Tim Ware

In France, a boating holiday is much more than simply a holiday on a boat. It's a chance not only to cruise past splendid scenery, wonder at historic towns and enjoy decent food and wine, but explore rarely-frequented French nooks.

Joining my group in Douelle, a typical Lot village nestling beneath limestone cliffs just beyond the Dordogne, we're set for seven nights in the Nautilus and have 76km of river stretching before us.

Settling into our four-cabined houseboat, we're quickly introduced to the warmer, less well-known countryside of the River Lot.

Perhaps a little like the Dordogne of three decades ago, it remains a part of France where time seems to have stood still, with picturesque villages and air as pure as the intoxicating red wine produced in the area.

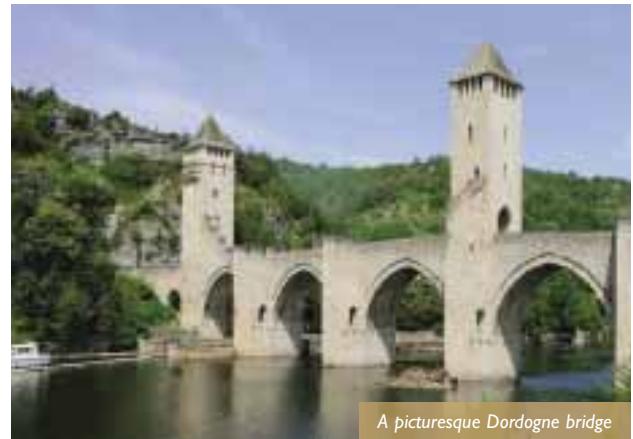
The Lot is France's seventh-longest river, and chugging through the water at a stately pace we form an intimate relationship with her virtues and foibles.

Summer in the Lot offers a better-than-average chance of good weather - and we are in luck. For the best part of the week, the sun shines almost incessantly from a near-cloudless sky.

The great pleasure of the much-meandering Lot is its variety. With each bend a different view

is revealed: a hill-top ruin here, a tiny port there and acres of vineyards of, predominantly, the Malbec grapes for velvety Cahors wine.

Another advantage of this mode of transport is being able to stop where the mood dictates. You carry no schedule or latent concerns about



A picturesque Dordogne bridge

finding a hotel room for the night. Your bed travels with you.

River-cruising has come a long way since days of damp post-war family boating holidays on the Broads. Modern boats are comfortable, well-furnished and equipped (the most important item is probably a decent corkscrew).

With autumn approaching, an early-morning mist hangs over the water like a damp blanket.

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Our routine is always the same. As the sun breaks through, one of the group is deputised to find a boulangerie for fresh rolls and croissants.

Over breakfast on deck we plan the day: how far we're going to travel, how many locks we have to negotiate and, of course, this being France, where to stop for lunch.

A place with instant appeal is Cahors, where the river seems to go back on itself, as if it's forgotten something, leaving the town imprisoned in a tight bend.

This impressive town, the capital of the old province of Quercy, is really two places in one. From the river, the first thing to greet you is the splendid Pont Valentre, whose sturdy towers once guarded the west entrance to the town.

But, after a week on the water, what becomes etched in the memory is not the stunning scenery and towns like Cahors with its secret gardens, memorable though they are. It's the sheer joy of discovering a part of France that is still, surprisingly, something of a closed book to many Francophiles.

TRAVEL: Fact file

Tim Ware travelled along the Lot with Hoseasons Holidays, which offers seven nights' self-catering on a boat sleeping eight from £1,355, excluding travel costs. The operator also fixes flights into Toulouse/Bordeaux, or Eurotunnel crossings for 500-mile drive to the Lot.

Hoseasons reservations: 0844 847 1170 and www.hoseasons.co.uk.

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off your
honeymoon



HOSE attending a wedding fayre next month have the chance to get a remarkable £2,000 off a dream honeymoon.

The Quex Spring Wedding Fayre, at Quex Park in Birchington, promises to be an inspiring event for all brides-to-be, with an eclectic range of more than 40 exhibitors taking part.

On show will be everything from cakes, dresses, jewellery, photography and a range of wedding cars.

What's more, those attending will be able to absorb the atmosphere and beauty of one of the finest locations to stage a wedding in Kent.



Major Powell-Cotton, owner of Quex Park, married Hannah Brayton Slater in Nairobi. Now, the Hannah Dining Suite at Quex Park offers brides and grooms the opportunity to enjoy the same experience of a wedding in Kent, surrounded by the memories of Africa.

Situated in the middle of the beautiful Quex Park, the Hannah Dining Suite provides a unique wedding experience in a stunning setting in historic surrounds and with extensive gardens.

Dedicated wedding consultants will be

on hand to advise on how to make the venue ideal for your special occasion.

And the highlight of the day will be a grand prize draw offering brides and grooms the opportunity to win £2,000 off the cost of their honeymoon.

In addition, there will be £200 gift vouchers for everyone who registers on the day – they can be redeemed on the day when you book a wedding either at the fayre itself, or by making an appointment to book a viewing of Quex Park's wedding venue on a future date.



The prize is sponsored by both Quex Park and Trailblazer Travel, of Herne Bay. Terms and conditions apply.

There is also a very special wedding offer for the readers of this newspaper.

The offer is a superb meal for two at a restaurant in Kent or a helicopter flight to view Quex Park. For details, see the full-page advert on page 13.

Entry to the fayre is free to all on Sunday, March 6, whether planning a wedding or not. It runs from 11am to 4pm.

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KENT'S PREMIER BRIDAL EXHIBITION

SATURDAY 15TH & SUNDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2011, 10AM - 5PM DAILY

Held over two days in a luxury marquee within the grounds of Leeds Castle, The Wedding Show gives brides the opportunity to meet the suppliers who will help to create their dream wedding.

The largest and most prestigious show in Kent with over 100 exhibitors.

BOOK TICKETS ONLINE
www.kentnews.co.uk/weddings

THE CATWALK

There are four magical and inspirational catwalk shows on each of the two days with wondrous collections of exquisite bridal designs, couture, ladies fashions, lingerie, swimwear, and men's attire.

On both days TV celebrity Claire Sweeney will be hosting two fabulous catwalk shows.

The shows are co-ordinated and professionally choreographed creating the 'wow factor'.



“I am delighted to be hosting Kent's Premier Wedding show and look forward to meeting you there”

Claire Sweeney

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For exhibitor information contact Liz Hare on 01303 817172 or email liz.hare@kosmedia.co.uk

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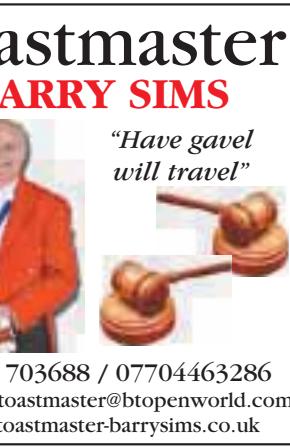
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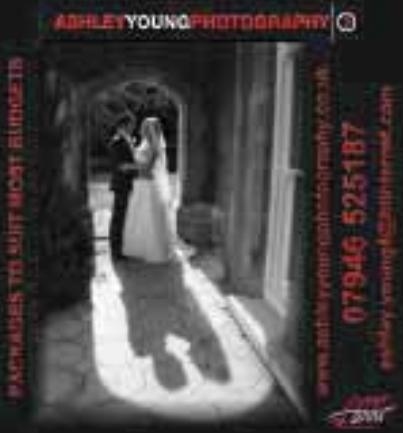
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